

GAME PREVIEW  
Illinois Fighting Illini

MEN'S GOLF  
Josh Reinertson

NU VOLLEYBALL  
Meghan Haggerty

THE ORIGINAL MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO NEBRASKA ATHLETICS

# HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

## THROWBACK THROWDOWN

Nebraska makes a statement  
in heated victory over old rival



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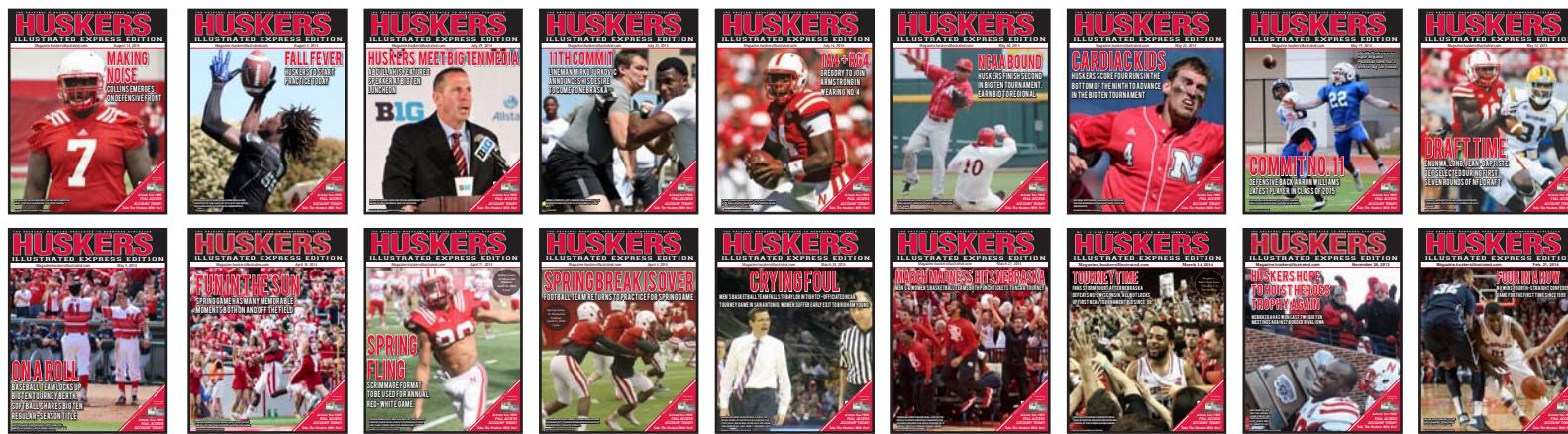
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# HUSKERS

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The next Huskers Illustrated edition, recapping the Illinois game and previewing the Michigan State game, will mail on Monday, Sept. 29.



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BY MICHAEL SCHAEFER

Nebraska hosted many recruits at the Miami game and is hoping it can turn several key players who are now committed to other programs.

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### STATE OF THE HUSKERS

BY MICHAEL BRUNTZ

Nebraska junior Joe Keels is thankful for support, confidence NU's coaches had in him.

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### TWO-MINUTE DRILL

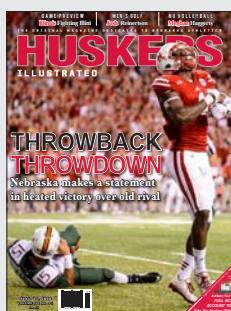
BY LANNY HOLSTEIN, DARREN IVY, MICHAEL SCHAEFER, MICHAEL BRUNTZ

Nebraska defensive linemen Joe Keels and Kevin Williams have overcome injuries and personal struggles to get on the field for the Huskers.

2014 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME	TV/SCORE
AUG. 30	FLORIDA ATLANTIC	MEMORIAL STADIUM	2:30 P.M.	W, 55-7
SEPT. 6	MCNEESE STATE	MEMORIAL STADIUM	11:00 A.M.	W, 31-24
SEPT. 13	@FRESNO STATE	FRESNO, CALIF.	9:30 P.M.	W, 55-19
SEPT. 20	MIAMI	MEMORIAL STADIUM	7:00 P.M.	W, 41-31
SEPT. 27	ILLINOIS	MEMORIAL STADIUM	8:00 P.M.	BTN
OCT. 4	@MICHIGAN STATE	EAST LANSING, MICH.	7:00 P.M.	ESPN/ABC
OCT. 18	@NORTHWESTERN	EVANSTON, ILL.	6:30 P.M.	BTN
OCT. 25	RUTGERS	MEMORIAL STADIUM	TBA	TBD
NOV. 1	PURDUE	MEMORIAL STADIUM	TBA	TBD
NOV. 15	@WISCONSIN	MADISON, WIS.	TBA	TBD
NOV. 22	MINNESOTA	MEMORIAL STADIUM	TBA	TBD
NOV. 28	@IOWA	IOWA CITY, IA	TBA	TBD
DEC. 6	@BIG TEN TITLE GAME	INDIANAPOLIS, IND.	7 P.M.	FOX

ALL GAMES ARE CST



### ON THE COVER

Junior rush end Randy Gregory celebrates a sack of Miami quarterback Brad Kaaya during the second half of Nebraska's 41-31 victory over the Hurricanes before a Memorial Stadium record crowd of 91,585. Gregory was involved in several scuffles with Miami players during the game as tempers flared at times, reminiscent of games past in the series. Many members of the 1994 national champion Nebraska team were on hand for the game and were recognized throughout the night.

PHOTO BY JIMMY RASH/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

## MIAMI RIVALRY CONTINUES TO BE HEATED CONTEST

### TRASH TALKING, A FEW SCRAPES HIGHLIGHT FIRST MEETING SINCE 2002

**MIAMI IS ONE OF THE FIRST TEAMS TO GET BOOED OFF THE FIELD AT MEMORIAL STADIUM IN A VERY LONG TIME.**

The normally “nice” folks of Nebraska probably last booed their own Cornhuskers during the Bill Callahan years before they ever took out their frustrations on an opposing foe at Memorial Stadium.

But when you flip off the “nicest” fans in college football, continually chip, poke and provoke Nebraska’s popular bear rusher Randy Gregory, and on top of that give the new record-crowd of 91,585 fans a full day of tailgating to get ready the reaction should not be surprising.

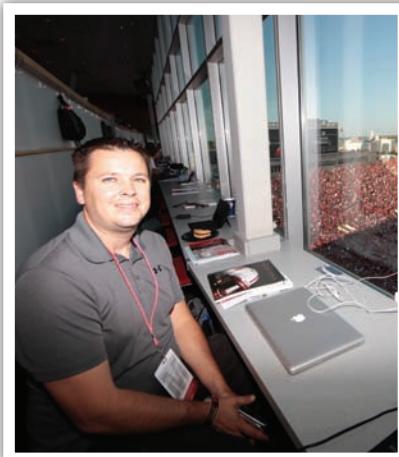
Remember no matter who the current players are, this is the same Miami program that has cost Nebraska at least three national championships through the years and caused many heartaches.

The Hurricanes are an opponent that spans generations of Nebraska fans dating back to big games in the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, 1990s and of course the last meeting in the 2002 Orange Bowl that didn’t go well for Nebraska.

Adding to the big-game environment Saturday night was the return of nearly 100 players off the 1994 Nebraska National Championship team that defeated the Hurricanes 24-17 in the 1995 Orange Bowl.

That was the last bunch of Huskers to defeat the Hurricanes prior to Saturday night and their presence added to the electric environment in Lincoln.

Prior to the game, a video of Tom Osborne’s pre-game speech before the 1995 Orange Bowl played on the big screen. Then members of the undefeated 1994 team came down the Tunnel Walk united behind former head coach Tom Osborne, former defensive coordinator Charlie Mc-



Bride, running backs coach Ron Brown and former offensive line coach Milt Tenopir, who was came out in a wheelchair.

They walked out to a standing ovation, as they carried the 1995 Orange Bowl trophy and lined up to greet the current Huskers for their own modern-day Tunnel Walk.

Prior to the pre-game, the hype had already been escalated by some off-the-field comments and the allure of a national TV audience on ESPN2. The Hurricanes (2-2) did their part to stoke the fire, calling out Cornhusker players on Instagram and talking a lot of trash. Nebraska players responded that it was Miami Week, and vowed to invoke their will on the field.

Once the game began, it was evident that these younger generation of Huskers and Hurricanes shared the same dislike as past Nebraska and Miami teams have.

Tempers really boiled over in the second half, as the tough, dirty style of play by the Hurricanes resurfaced and really challenged the NU players. Miami linemen pinned Gregory down after several plays were over, pushing both benches to the brink of something bad. To the credit of both coaching staffs, things never got completely out of control on the field.

It was nice to see Nebraska (4-0) respond with some fire of its own, and come to the aid of teammates and rally on the field, never letting off the throttle.

It turned into a game of domination by the Huskers, who are now 4-0 all-time against the Hurricanes in Lincoln. For Nebraska fans, who have been so desperately seeking this kind of outcome in a big game against a hated rival, the boos were rightly intended for the current Hurricanes. But you can be sure that some of those were for past Miami players as well.

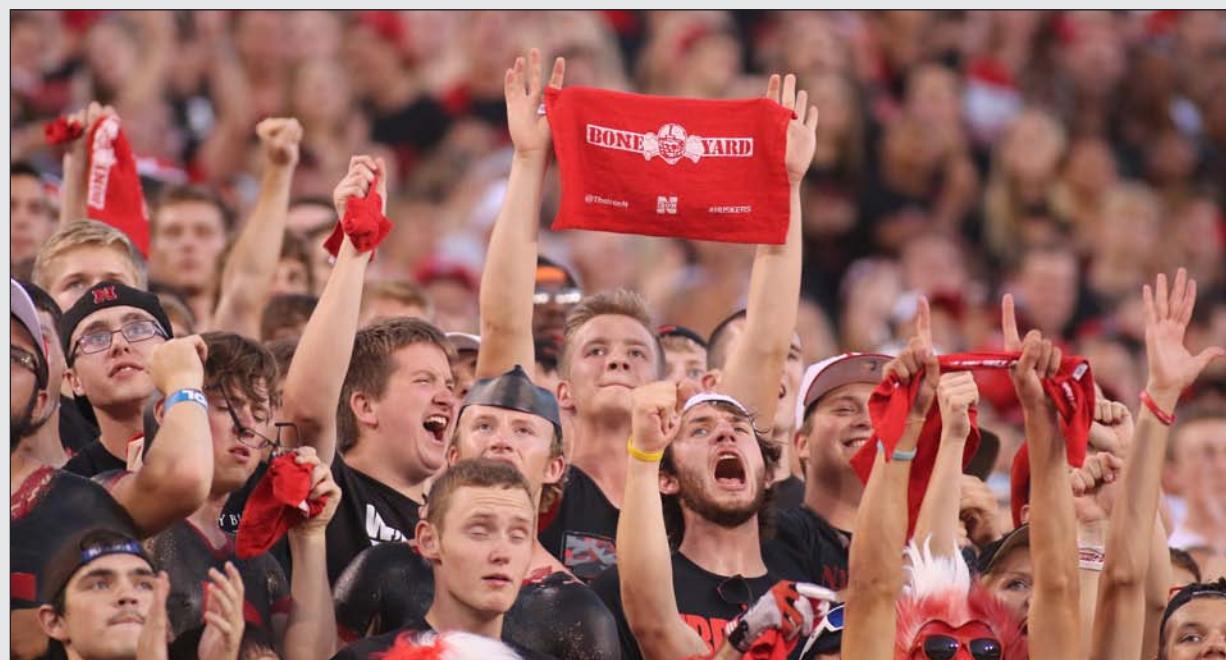


CLOCKWISE FROM Above: Front row from left: Greg Hanson, a shot before the Miami game. Greg Hanson, Miami running back Duke Johnson and quarterback member of the Boneyard holds up a homemade student section, showed support for the Huskers. Abby Tanking of Chicago, Jillian Derry of Omaha (left) of Lincoln holds a blocking pad for his grand games before the Miami game.

# Behind the N

## Boneyard welcomes UM

PHOTOS BY MITCHO OTTO, JIMMY RASH, JOE MIXAN/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED



Matt Gribble of Torington, Wyoming, Irl Clarke of Knoxville, Iowa, Jed States of Columbus, Ohio, Donell Clarke of Knoxville, Iowa and Cherokee Gribble of Torington, Wyoming pose for a photo. Matt Gribble, left of Omaha, stands in front of the bus he owns that is decorated with stuffed figures of quarterback Brad Kaaya as Hurricane fan Andy Friedman from Minneapolis, Minn., looks on. A large sign of Randy Gregory. A record number of 91,585 fans, including a packed Boneyard Bleachers, were on hand Saturday night. From left: Randy Avila of Los Angeles, Jordan Peskin of Los Angeles, California and Jami Wilhelm of Humboldt pose for a shot before the Miami game. Joseph Jensen of Lincoln and Hunter Anderson (6) from Firth. Max Kuehl of Lincoln participates in some tailgating.

# Abdullah ascends NU's all-time charts

Ameer Abdullah runs through Miami players for one his two rushing touchdowns in the game.



STORY BY TERRY DOUGLASS | PHOTO BY JOEMIXAN

**A**meer Abdullah's assault on Nebraska's record book continued during the Cornhuskers' 41-31 victory over Miami (Fla.) as the senior I-back eclipsed some of the more prominent names in school history.

Abdullah rushed a career-high 35 times for 229 yards and two touchdowns and also had a 3-yard scoring reception against the Hurricanes as Nebraska improved to 4-0 on the season. The performance marked the third 200-yard game of Abdullah's career and his second this season after gaining a career-high 232 in the season opener against Florida Atlantic.

Afterwards, Abdullah saluted the play of Nebraska's offensive line.

"Man, those guys played like people

that were possessed," said Abdullah, whose previous high for rushing attempts was 31 carries against Penn State in 2012. "They practice their butts off all week, trying to be so physical and practice like they want to play on Saturday. I really didn't expect anything else."

"I looked at their faces before the game and I could tell they were focused and going to come out and do a really good job today."

With his 229-yard rushing performance against the Hurricanes, Abdullah increased his career total to 3,602 and moved him into third place on Nebraska's all-time charts. The 5-foot-9, 200-pounder from Homewood, Ala., passed Roy Helu Jr. (3,404 yards) and Eric Crouch (3,434) and now trails only Ahman Green (3,880) and 1983 Heisman Trophy winner Mike

Rozier (4,780).

It was also Abdullah's 20th career 100-yard game, tying him with Green for second on Nebraska's all-time charts. The leader is Rozier with 26 career 100-yard rushing games.

Finally, Abdullah had 81 kickoff return yards against Miami, giving him a career-high 313 all-purpose yards. Abdullah's 5,762 career all-purpose yards surpassed 1972 Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Rodgers (5,586) for the top spot in Husker history.

"He's special every night," Nebraska junior offensive lineman Alex Lewis said of Abdullah. "A guy like that, he can run, he can cut (and) he will hit. He's someone that you love blocking for and you get to tell (people) in the future that you got to block for a running back that great."

# Turnovers spark NU in win over Miami

STORY BY TERRY DOUGLASS | PHOTO BY MITCH OTTO

**N**ebraska's turnover binge came at an ideal time for the Cornhuskers as their season-best three takeaways played a key role in a 41-31 home victory over Miami (Fla.).

Linebacker David Santos and defensive back Joshua Kalu both had interceptions and linebacker Trevor Roach forced a fumble that was recovered by Cornhuskers' cornerback Josh Mitchell and returned 57 yards for a touchdown. The defensive score by Mitchell gave Nebraska a 31-21 lead – and some breathing room – with 2:23 to go in the third quarter.

"That forced fumble couldn't have come at a better time," said Santos, who also led the Huskers with 10 total tackles. "It was all a big momentum swing for us."

Nebraska entered the contest with just one takeaway in its first three games. Santos equaled the defense's previous production with a diving interception with 6:09 remaining in the first quarter, ending a Hurricanes' drive at the Huskers' 5-yard line.

Nebraska defensive coordinator John Papuchis said the Huskers didn't do anything differently for force more turnovers against the Hurricanes.

"I always try to make analogies to other sports and I don't think you can go up and try to hit home runs," Papuchis said. "I think it happens when you make a good swing. The same thing happens with creating turnovers.

"I think you have to play within a defense and try to capitalize on the opportunities when they're there."

Following Mitchell's scoop and score, Nebraska looked to have another takeaway when defensive back Nate Gerry intercepted Brad Kaaya on a throw over the middle. However, Gerry's interception was nullified due to a roughing-the-passer penalty.

Overall, Papuchis Nebraska has plenty to work on after allowing Miami to gain 435 yards of total offense. Kaaya, a freshman quarterback, was 28-of-42 passing for 359 yards and running back Duke Johnson had 93 yards rushing and 84 yards receiving for the Hurricanes.

"Defensively, it was an ugly game, but we got big plays in big moments that gave us enough of an opportunity to win the game," Papuchis said. "It was a back-and-forth fist fight and someone had to steal the possession at some point, whether it was them or us."



# Huskers grind out 41-31 win on Canes

## Abdullah carries a career-high 35 times for 229 yards, two TDs

STORY BY LANNY HOLSTEIN | PHOTO BY JIMMY RASH

**T**im Beck found something that was working, and he hit it hard. The Nebraska offensive coordinator hit pay dirt once with the running game Saturday night against Miami, and he decided stick with it.

After throwing a modest nine passes in the first half, Nebraska only uncorked another four in the second. The running game was all the Huskers' needed in a 41-31 win over the Hurricanes.

"That was a heckuva an effort," coach Bo Pelini said after the game. "I thought coach (Tim) Beck did a great job tonight designing it. I thought we executed very well. I thought we threw the ball efficiently. The second half didn't really call for a lot of passes, and at the end of the day, I liked what we were doing and I think we were very efficient at doing it."

After putting it on the ground 54 times Saturday, the Huskers collected 343 rushing yards and a couple touchdowns, both of those coming from standout back Ameer Abdullah. The darkhorse Heisman candidate carried the brunt of the load, running for 229 yards on 35 carries. After the game, he gave the credit to his offensive line.

"Man, those guys played like people that were possessed," Abdullah said. "Don't get me wrong, those guys are fine. But they can't be knocked down right now because they practice their butts off all week, trying to be so physical and practice like they want to play on Saturday."

In the second half especially, it appeared the Nebraska attack was wearing heavily on the Hurricane front seven. The big guys up front killed Miami's will.

"When you're getting the ball run at you, maybe some of the things we did got a little demoralizing and a little off kilter," Pelini said. "I think you're going to find out as the season goes on that (Miami's) a pretty good football team. It was a pretty talented football team. I thought our offense at times made them look pretty average. That says a lot for what our offense did."

On the defensive side, Nebraska didn't play nearly as well. A late touchdown moved the Hurricanes over the 30-point mark and got them to 435 yards of total offense.



"We didn't play well at the linebacker position," Pelini said. "They isolated us a couple times, and we took some turns. We got beat a few times. We just got beat."

They did create a trio of turnovers, which amounted to three times their production in the first three games in that category. A 57-yard scoop and score from Josh Mitchell gave Nebraska a cushion in the third quarter.

"We stepped up," Pelini said. "We made enough plays to win the football game, and now our challenge is to keep working everyday to get better as it (the season) goes on."

The Huskers will try to learn from a few scuffles Saturday as well. The notably undisciplined Hurricanes pulled Nebraska into a couple fights

that Pelini didn't approve of.

"I thought it got a little out of control," he said. "I thought it could have been managed better. At the end of the day, there's going to be some of that. Two teams playing hard going after each other. But it got a little out of control there for a while."

At the end of the day, the fights may have actually helped the Huskers, according to Vincent Valentine.

"This is our house," the defensive tackle said. "We don't want people to come in and do stuff like that. They are jumping our guy, so yeah, that's going to get us fueled up. We are going to get energized and go out there to protect our house."

# GameStats

## SUMMARY

### SCORING

September 20, 2014  
Memorial Stadium, Lincoln, Nebraska  
Attendance: 91,585

	1	2	3	4	F
MIAMI	7	7	7	10	31
NEBRASKA	7	10	14	10	41

**Q1** 10:26 MIA - Johnson Duke 2 yd run (Bagley, Michael kick) 9-75 4:34

08:12 NEB - Bell, Kenny 40 yd pass from Tommy Armstrong (Brown, Drew kick) 6-81 2:06

**Q2** 13:52 MIA - Walford, Clive 6 yd pass from Brad Kaaya (Badgley, Michael kick) 4-56 1:38

7:10 NEB - Abdullah, Ameer 3 yd pass from Tommy Armstrong (Brown, Drew kick) 14-79 6:35

0:00 NEB - Brown, Drew 19 yd field goal 11-50 6:01

**Q3** 10:06 NEB - Abdullah, Ameer 6 yd run (Brown, Drew kick) 11-75 4:54

5:09 MIA - Lewis, Malcolm 9 yd pass from Brad Kaaya (Badgley, Michael kick) 10-76 4:51

2:23 NEB - Mitchell, Josh 57 yd fumble recovery (Brown, Drew kick)

**Q4** 13:37 MIA - Badgley, Michael 34 yd field goal 8-47 3:46

9:21 NEB - Brown, Drew 39 yd field goal 8-54 4:09

4:13 NEB - Abdullah, Ameer 10 yd run (Brown, Drew kick) 6-40 3:05

0:18 MIA - Berrios, Braxton 4 yd pass from Brad Kaaya (Badgley, Michael kick) 14-79 3:49

## TEAM STATS

	NEBRASKA	MIAMI
FIRST DOWNS	27	24
Rushing	17	6
Passing	5	16
Penalty	5	2
NET YARDS RUSHING	343	76
Rushing Attempts	54	23
Average Per Rush	6.4	3.3
Rushing Touchdowns	2	1
Yards Gained Rushing	347	107
Yards Lost Rushing	4	31
NET YARDS PASSING	113	359
Completions-Attempts-Int.	9-13-1	28-42-2
Average Per Attempt	8.7	8.5
Average Per Completion	12.6	12.8
Passing Touchdowns	2	3
TOTAL OFFENSE YARDS	456	435
Total offense plays	67	65
Average Gain Per Play	6.8	6.7
Fumbles: Number-Lost	2-1	2-1
Penalties: Number-Yards	7-69	9-82
PUNTS-YARDS	1.49	2.78
Average Yards Per Punt	49.0	39.0
Net Yards Per Punt	49.0	33.5
Inside 20	0	1
50+ Yards	0	0
Touchbacks	0	0
Fair catch	1	0
KICKOFFS-YARDS	7-431	6-319
Average Yards Per Kickoff	61.6	53.2
Net Yards Per Kickoff	43.3	35.5
Touchbacks	3	1
Punt returns: Number-Yards-TD	2-11-0	0-0-0
Average Per Return	5.5	0.0
Kickoff returns: Number-Yds-TD	4-81-0	3-53-0
Average Per Return	20.2	17.7
Interceptions: Number-Yds-TD	2-5-0	1-0-0
Fumble Returns: Number-Yds-TD	1-57-1	0-0-0
Possession Time	33:20	26:40
Third-Down Conversions	7 of 10	3 of 10
Fourth-Down Conversions	0 of 0	2 of 3
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	5-5	4-4
Touchdowns	4-5	3-4
Field goals	1-5	1-4
Sacks By: Number-Yards	2-25	0-0
PAT Kicks	5-5	4-4
Field Goals	2-2	1-1

## INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

### MIAMI

RUSHING	NO	GAIN	LOST	NET	TD	LG	Avg
Johnson, Duke	18	99	6	93	1	19	5.2
Edwards, Gus	3	8	0	8	0	4	2.7
Kaaya, Brad	2	0	25	-25	0	0	-12.5
Totals	23	107	31	76	1	19	3.3

PASSING	C-A-I	YDS	TD	LONG	SACK
Kaaya, Brad	28-42-2	359	3	32	2
Totals	28-42-2	359	3	32	2

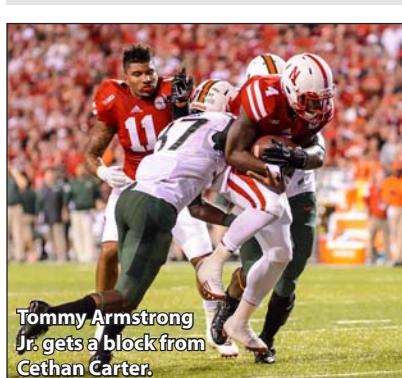
RECEIVING	NO	YARDS	TD	LONG
Walford, Clive	7	80	1	20
Johnson, Duke	5	84	0	32
Lewis, Malcolm	5	40	1	15
Berrios, Braxton	4	43	1	23
Coley, Stacey	3	22	0	17
Dorsett, Phillip	2	48	0	32
Yearby, Joe	1	22	0	22
Standish, Dobard	1	20	0	20
Totals	28	359	3	32

PUNTS	NO	YDS	AVG	LONG	IN20	TB
Vogel, Justin	2	78	39.0	41	1	0

RETURNS	NO	YDS	LG	NO	YDS	LG	NO	YDS	LG	INTERCEPTIONS
Coley, Stacy	0	0	0	2	47	24	0	0	0	0
Dorsett, Phillip	0	0	0	1	6	6	0	0	0	0
Howard, Tracy	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0

FIELD GOALS	QTR	TIME	DISTANCE	RES
Badgley, Michael	4th	13:37	34 yds	Good

DEFENSE	TS	AT	TT	SACK-YD	TFL-YD	FF	FR-YD	INT-YD	BU	BLK	QBH
58 Owens, Darr.	4	3	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
56 Kirby, Raph.	3	4	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
34 Armbrister, T.	3	4	7	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
1 Burns, Artie	2	4	6	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
52 Perryman, D.	2	4	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17 McCord, Tyriq	2	3	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
47 Ufomata, Ka.	2	3	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
29 Elder, Corn	1	4	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
91 Olsen, Pierre	3	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 Bush, Deon	2	2	4	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
28 Fentress, N.	2	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
71 Chickillo, A.	2	2	4	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-
37 Gunter, Lad.	2	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 Grace, Jerm.	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 Crawford, Da.	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6A Carter, Jamal	2	0	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
92 Jenkins, Cour.	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9 Lewis, Malcolm	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21 Crawford, A.	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
93 Heurtelou, C	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 Howard, Tracy	0	1	1	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-
33 Harris, Trent	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-



### NEBRASKA

RUSHING	NO	GAIN	LOST	NET	TD	LG	Avg
Abdullah, Ameer	35	230	1	229	2	26	6.5
Armstrong Jr., Tommy	13	96	0	96	0	17	7.4
Cross, Imani	3	13	0	13	0	7	4.3
Newby, Terrell	1	8	0	8	0	8	8.0
Pierson-El, Dem.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
TEAM	1	0	3	-3	0	0	-3.0
Totals	54	347	4	343	2	26	6.4

PASSING	C-A-I	YDS	TD	LONG	SACK
Armstrong Jr., Tommy	9-13-1	113	2	40	0
Totals	9-13-1	113	2	40	0

RECEIVING	NO	YARDS	TD	LONG
Bell, Kenny	4	70	1	40
Moore, Alonzo	3	26	0	14
Westerkamp, Jordan	1	14	0	14
Abdullah, Ameer	1	3	1	3
Totals	1	113	2	40

PUNTS	NO	YDS	AVG	LONG	IN20	TB
Foltz, Sam	1	49	49.0	49	0	0

RETURNS	NO	YDS	LG	NO	YDS	LG	NO	YDS	LG	
Pierson-El, Dem.	2	11	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kalu, Josh	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	5	5
Santos, David	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Abdullah, Ameer	0	0	0	4	81	31	0	0	0	0

FIELD GOALS	QTR	TIME	DISTANCE	RES
Brown, Drew	2nd	00:00	19 yds	Good
Brown, Drew	4th	09:21	39 yds	Good

DEFENSE	TS	AT	TT	SACK-YD	TFL-YD	FF	FR-YD	INT-YD	BU	BLK	QBH
41 Santos, David	5	10	-	1-1	-	-	-	-	1-0	-	-
6 Cooper, Corey</td											

**RUSHING OFFENSE:** This isn't the most yards Nebraska has ever rolled up and it wasn't perfect but the Huskers did a nice job of taking what was there, chaining together plays for long sustaining drives. That's been missing with the Huskers' quick-strike offense and the fact Nebraska could do that to Miami says a lot about this team as it heads into conference play. This space could be used to focus on Ameer Abdullah – but plenty of the rest of the game coverage will do that. Nebraska's receivers did an outstanding job of controlling the edge. That allowed Abdullah to grab chunks of free yards and set himself up for the bigger runs. Receivers Taariq Allen and Kenny Bell deserve a lot of props for their work – Bell in particular was pushing guys far off the ball and it's what makes him a well-rounded player. – *Mike Schaefer*

A

**PASSING OFFENSE:** Kind of tough to grade the passing offense in a game in which the Huskers only threw the ball 13 times, but the only downgrade of the night comes from Tommy Armstrong's interception. The Huskers were in position to push more points across the board after driving on Miami, but the interception could've changed the game. Armstrong locked in on Westerkamp, made a poor throw and Miami was able to get the ball back in the third quarter. Other than that throw Armstrong had a nice night. The second quarter touchdown pass to Ameer Abdullah was a play the Huskers executed perfectly after setting it up. Nebraska got big efforts from Alonzo Moore, who tripled his season total of receptions on the evening. Two of Moore's grabs went for first downs and the third helped set the Huskers up for another. Additionally, Kenny Bell took advantage of busted coverage for Nebraska's opening touchdown – another well thrown 40-yard seam - and that forced Miami to respect the Huskers' passing game. – *Mike Schaefer*

B+

**RUSHING DEFENSE:** Nebraska came into the game looking to shut down the big plays of Miami running back Duke Johnson, and for the most part succeeded. Part of that was Miami not initially handing the ball to their star tailback, but the Huskers did a nice job of limiting yardage and keeping Johnson contained. He finished the game with 18 carries for 93 yards and one touchdown, but Miami was never really able to get anything going on the ground and control the clock. Give credit to defensive tackles Vincent Valentine and Maliek Collins controlling the interior line, and for other defenders finishing off tackles. Linebacker David Santos deserves kudos for the way he performed, leading the team with 10 tackles. – *Michael Bruntz*

B+

**PASSING DEFENSE:** Nebraska gave up some yards through the air to Miami, with freshman quarterback Brad Kaaya finishing 28-for-42 with three touchdowns and two interceptions. Kaaya is the real deal, and made some tough throws under duress. Nebraska got to Kaaya twice in the win, and a lot of the yardage that Nebraska gave up was after the catch. Nebraska got two picks of Kaaya, and had a third negated by a questionable roughing the passer penalty. – *Michael Bruntz*

B-

**KICKING/SPECIAL TEAMS:** We'll give credit where credit is due here. Nebraska's special teams have shown consistency – good consistency. Drew Brown made both of his field goals, a 39-yard kick and a 19-yard kick, Sam Foltz only punted once, and Drew Brown booted three of his seven kicks for touchbacks. De'Mornay Pierson-El didn't have a huge return like he did last week at Fresno State, but he is a threat that teams have to respect in the punt return game. That's two consecutive weeks of solid special teams play for Nebraska, which is trending in the right direction. – *Michael Bruntz*

A

## Quoting quarterback Tommy Armstrong Jr.

### On if it felt like normal game:



**"No it didn't, honestly. It felt like it was a rivalry game. Like I said before, we just had to zone it out and just make sure we ran our offense. Coach (Tim) Beck always told us going into this week that we shouldn't get caught up in all the emotion surrounding you. Make sure you are focusing enough to run the offense. Make sure you are focusing enough to execute plays."**

# Game Notes

## KICKER BONDI HURT IN ACCIDENT

What had been a two-way battle a kicker became one man's job a few days before the Huskers took on Miami.

Late Thursday afternoon, kickoff specialist Mauro Bondi broke his clavicle in a motorcycle accident, taking himself out of the running at the position. Throughout the first three games, Nebraska had used freshman Drew Brown as the lead man on field goals, but Bondi wasn't far behind, getting reps in a couple games.

"My immediate reaction was 'I hope he's okay and his family is alright,'" Brown said. "I heard Friday morning, and it happened Thursday afternoon. Obviously, later on in the day, I needed to adjust my mindset when it came to football. It's not a horrible tragedy, but when one of your good friends goes down like that it can really affect you mentally."

Brown said after the Huskers' 41-31 win that he hadn't yet talked to Bondi since the incident, but that was the first thing on his agenda. Against the Hurricanes, Brown took full ownership of the kicking duties, hitting his only two field goals and five extra points.

"I feel like I kicked pretty well," Brown said. "Obviously, I could have hit a better ball on the kickoff that went out of bounds. That's unacceptable, and the last kickoff, I could hit that better. Also, the field goal that went off the upright, I could hit that better, but the main thing is that the kicks went through, and that's all the matters at this point."

## GREGORY GETS IN MIDDLE OF FRAY

Much of the fighting and chippiness that characterized Nebraska's win against the Hurricanes began with defensive end Randy Gregory and his battles against the Miami offensive line.

Gregory avoided the media following the game and didn't comment, but fellow defensive lineman Vincent Valentine said the Hurricanes were targeting the star defensive end.

"They know he's a hothead and things happen like that," Valentine said. "From what I saw, they were double-teaming him, so I can't speak too much to it because I didn't really see it, but they were trying to go after our guys. Obviously, we have our guys' backs, so those things happen."

Valentine was asked to clarify what he meant when he called Gregory a hothead.

"I wouldn't say that hothead is the right word for it, but he's just so competitive," Valentine said. "He talks to the other team, talks trash. When you are a competitor that's going to happen. They tried to mess with him a little bit, get under his skin."

It worked on a couple of occasions Saturday. Gregory and the Hurricane offensive line played more than the allotted 60 minutes of football, tussling after the



JOE MIXAN/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Senior co-captain Josh Mitchell (5) comes to the aid of Randy Gregory during a second-half skirmish against the Hurricanes.

whistle on a couple occasions.

"I think it was the heat of the moment," Valentine said. "You know how it is when everybody gets out there and battles. Things happen like that."

## NU RECOGNIZES 1994 TEAM

Nebraska honored the 1994 national championship football team before Saturday's game by running the team onto the field during the tunnel walk. The current Husker players were too young to remember that team, but they still draw motivation from coach Tom Osborne's first national title squad.

"We didn't get to talk to any of them, but

when I came out of the tunnel walk, it gave me a little motivation trying to build on the legacy that they built for us," safety Nathan Gerry said.

What does Gerry know about that team?

"Honestly, I'm not really sure," he said. "I just know they were bad ass."

## NU-MIAMI FEELS RIGHT

Saturday's game with Miami had a big game feel for more than a few reasons.

To begin with, it was a reincarnation of a rivalry that defined the 1980s and 1990s for Nebraska football, and the 1994 national title team that took the Hurricanes down for

the championship were on hand to witness it. But there were plenty of other signs that this wasn't just another game.

Before the game, baseball player Alex Rodriguez was on hand in the downtown Lincoln Railyard, decked out in a Miami jacket. The star Yankees third basemen is banned from baseball this year for steroid use, and thought he would catch his favorite college football team in action. He watched the game from the Miami athletic director's suit in the press box.

Saturday's game also broke attendance record at Memorial Stadium. 91,585 people crammed into the old gray lady for the big win.

# FINAL SCORE: NEBRASKA 41, MIAMI 31





CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:  
RANDY GREGORY SLAMS  
MIAMI QUARTERBACK  
BRAD KAAYA TO THE  
GROUND FOR ONE OF  
HIS TWO SACKS. (JOE  
MIXAN) HEAD COACH BO  
PELINI REACTS TO A LATE  
HIT CALL THAT NEGATED  
AN INTERCEPTION. (JIM-  
MY RASH) KENNY BELL  
ESCAPES A MIAMI PLAY-  
ER TO SCORE A 40-YARD  
TOUCHDOWN CATCH.  
(JIMMY RASH) AMEER  
ABDULLAH RUNS AWAY  
FROM MIAMI'S DEFENSE  
EN ROUTE TO 229 YARDS  
AND TWO SCORES (JIM-  
MY RASH). MIAMI COACH  
AL GOLDEN WATCHES AS  
JOSH MITCHELL RE-  
TURNS A FUMBLE 57  
YARDS FOR A SCORE.  
(JOE MIXAN) DAVID SAN-  
TOS HITS MIAMI QUAR-  
TERBACK BRAD KAAYA.  
(JOE MIXAN) DANIEL  
DAVIE TRIES TO BREAK  
UP A PASS (JIMMY RASH)

# 2Minute Drill

## COACHES KEEP ON JOE KEELS



Joe Keels saw his first extensive playing time at rush end against Fresno State.

TONY KIEHN/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

By Darren Ivy, Lanny Holstein, Michael Bruntz, Michael Schaefer

Nebraska is the best thing that ever happened to Joe Keels.

The junior college transfer is poised to make an impact as a reserve defensive end this season, but the future didn't always look so promising for him.

He showed talent coming out of high school in Wisconsin but began his career bouncing around between North Dakota College of Science and Highland (Kan.) Community College.

Before he landed at Nebraska this January, Keels was looking for a stable family atmosphere in his next school. He briefly flirted with heading home to Wisconsin before landing on Nebraska.

"It was a family atmosphere here the whole time," Keels said. "Even when I was committed to Wisconsin, they were there the whole time. A lot of coaches would have stayed away, but coach (Rick) Kaz (Kaczenski) told me to take all of my visits and have fun. He told me to make the best decision for me and didn't press me. He just gave me everything he had to offer and then stayed there the whole time, and I feel like that's somebody I want to hang around the rest of my career and after."

Kaczenski has a reputation as bit of a yeller and an intense coach, but that was no problem for Keels. Adjusting to his position coach has come naturally.

"It wasn't as hard as people thought because my junior college coach, he was kind of a stickler like that too," Keels said. "He comes off like he's a hard ass, but he also will call you at night and give you stuff to work on. If you are making progress, he will be honest with you, but if you're not, he'll tell you."

Keels enrolled at Nebraska a semester early, arriving this past January in time for the spring semester and spring football, and it didn't take long for him to lean on Nebraska's family atmosphere. The defensive end lost his father a few weeks into spring camp and had to miss some practices grieving the loss.

"They all stepped in, coach Bo (Pelini), coach JP (John Papuchis) and coach Kaz," Keels said of how Nebraska handled his situation. "You know, Kaz is my position coach, so he was really the one calling me every night making sure everything was okay."

The player and coach relationship between Keels and Kaczenski really grew during that tough time, according to the junior.

"When I lost my father last semester, I feel like Kaz took that role," he said. "I look at him as a father figure now. I know that no matter what is going on, he has my best interests in mind."

That's a big deal to Keels because he didn't have that kind of support growing up. He came from a rough family situation and rough background all together. Going through the junior college process and bouncing around was especially tough on him because he basically did it alone.

In addition to missing time during spring ball, Keels also didn't play very well in the time he was there. He had a lot on his mind, and Kaczenski realized that, keeping up with Keels despite his poor play.

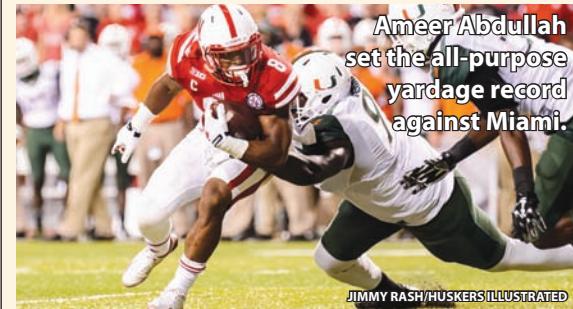
"I always call and text him and thank him for not giving up on me because a lot of coaches, after the spring I had, would have been like 'alright, we better push him to the back and move the freshman up,' but he didn't do that," Keels said. "He told me to keep plugging away. He told me they were going to need me."

Keels hasn't seen the field much as of late, as he's still behind Gregory and McMullen, but he said he's moving in the right direction. He said, with the help of Kaczenski, he's ready to push the starters.

"I got to a point where I feel like I'm working harder than ever," he said. "I'm practicing, watching film and doing all that. I didn't even know how to watch film before. I've really learned the game of football here."

## HI'S TOP 5

# NU'S ALL-TIME ALL-PURPOSE YARDAGE LEADERS



**5,762 YARDS**

**1 AMEER ABDULLAH**  
**(2011-2014)**

**5,586 YARDS**

**2 JOHNNY RODGERS**  
**(1970-1972)**

**5,445 YARDS**

**3 MIKE ROZIER**  
**(1981-1983)**

**4,280 YARDS**

**4 AHMAN GREEN**  
**(1995-1997)**

**4,214 YARDS**

**5 MARLON LUCKY**  
**(2005-2008)**

*With his 17-yard run in the second quarter against Miami, Ameer Abdullah passed Johnny Rodgers as Nebraska's all-time all-purpose yardage leader for rushing, receiving and return yardage. In addition to his 229 rushing yards, Abdullah added three receiving yards and 81 kickoff return yards for a career-high 313 all-purpose yards, bettering his 252-yard effort against Wisconsin in 2012. Abdullah's 313 all-purpose yards rank second on the Nebraska single-game all-purpose yardage list, and is the most by a Husker since Roy Helu Jr. had a school-record 321 all-purpose yards against Missouri on Oct. 30, 2010.*

Wide receiver Christian Bailey warms up before the Miami game on Saturday.



# A CATCH TO REMEMBER

# FOR CHRISTIAN BAILEY

*Nebraska freshman wide receiver Christian Bailey made his first career reception for a touchdown against Fresno State. With Sam Burtch and Jamal Turner now lost for the year, he could be called on more in future games.*

**Story By LANNY HOLSTEIN • Photo By JIMMY RASH**

**How did you end up catching a touch-down pass against Fresno State?**

“I kind of wandered in there, and I thought I would be blocking or something because we were down by the goal line. I saw the play come in, and thought this could go to me, so my heart started racing a little bit. I looked at Ryker (Fyfe) and told myself ‘If he’s throwing it, I’m not dropping it.’”

**Did you and Ryker celebrate that one together?**

“That was his first touchdown too. I didn’t even realize that, so I went over and congratulated him. It was exciting, very exciting.”

**Did your phone blow up after that?**

“Yeah. I didn’t even expect that. I figured most people from back home would have turned the game off after they saw the score, it was run up so much, but I had about 50 or 55 text messages right after the game. They are still coming too.”

**Was that play your first action in a game?**

“I’ve played special teams in every game so far, and I’ve played a little bit of offense, but that was my first pass, my first ball thrown to me. It’s a good stat to have, I guess. I like to say that I keep it productive.”

**What was your mentality going into this game? Were you ready to go in?**

“Mostly just stay prepared. I mean, you never know what’s going to happen, so you have to stay ready, stay prepared. Coach Fisher always says not to pray for an opportunity, pray that when an opportunity presents itself, you are ready. That’s what I try to do.”

**Do you have good hands?**

“That was a big thing, just catching pass-

es. I always had lined up at the receiver spot and caught balls my whole career growing up. Even in high school, that’s what decided if I was going to be more offense or defense related. We needed my hands on offense a little more.”

**How did you end up walking-on at Nebraska all the way from California?**

“It was my first time coming down here with Johnny Stanton, and I fell in love with the place and the tradition. I got to go through that tunnel walk when there were 90,000 fans sitting out there, and it was something hard to say ‘no’ to.”

**You came up here with Johnny on your visit. How well did you know him?**

“I’ve known Johnny since 6th grade. We played football and basketball together, that whole deal. We went to rival high schools, and I lost to him in the state championship. We don’t talk about that very much, but he always has that over me. We’ve been great friend, and when he committed here, he said it was something I should give thought to.”

**Is it your goal to get a scholarship before you leave?**

“I think that’s every walk-on’s goal, but I turned down some smaller schools to come here because I saw guys like Brandon Rielly and Sam Burtch move into big time roles and do big things. They obviously earned it, and I felt like I could come in and do the same thing.”

**Does Nebraska give walk-ons more of an opportunity than some other schools?**

“I’d say so, for sure. Looking at the past, seeing the tradition that they have with walk-ons, I feel like you have an opportunity here that some schools wouldn’t give you. I think it’s a mix of the coaches and the culture and how Nebraska represents itself.”

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## WILLIAMS HANGS TOUGH DESPITE INJURIES

Nebraska defensive tackle Kevin Williams never really thought about giving up football. Not after the first ACL injury, not after the second one that cost him the 2013 season and certainly not after a brief scare this fall.

Williams said that while he might have been frustrated with his luck and the situation, his mother was always right there with encouragement on the phone.

"It crossed my mind at first but really you can't let that cross your mind in this profession or if you're going to make a profession out of it. I've worked way too hard to let something like that get into my head," he said. "That's something my mom told me when I went through the first ACL injury and especially the second one. She was like 'Hey if you're going to be doing this then look at all the linemen in the league, they all have injuries like that. It's not going to be the first or your last one. You're going to keep doing it. Get your head up, get to work.'" So that's what I did."

On Saturday the Huskers were fortunate Williams never decided to walk away. Getting his most playing time in seasons, the defensive tackle shot gaps, wrapped up ball carriers for a loss and played like the defender he was recruited to be.

Williams loved every second of it.

"It felt great, I mean it was a long time waiting," Williams said. "That's why I was doing all this rehab, treatment and things like that. It's starting to pay off now."

The defensive tackle graduated this past summer. He's an old man on the roster – a member of the 2011 recruiting class during the bygone



Defensive lineman Kevin Williams pressures Fresno State quarterback Brian Burrell in his most extensive action in years.

era when the Huskers were taking players from Ohio. Williams was once the future for Nebraska at the defensive tackle position, but injuries and the emergence of Maliek Collins and Vincent Valentine changed that outlook.

Now Williams and Kevin Maurice are Nebraska's primary backups in the middle. Against Fresno State, NU needed its backups to play quite a bit as the conditions were hot and the Huskers wanted to keep the line fresh.

"With one of the guys gone at the defensive line position, I think we definitely need to have depth there and show that we have a few guys that can rotate through because it's a long game, especially when playing a team like Fresno with 90 snaps,"

he said. "We can't have one guy or two guys in there for the whole game. That'll take its toll on us. Being able to rotate guys in and having good depth at that position is going to be key going forward."

In just a little more than 20 snaps, Williams finished with three tackles, two solo and two tackles for a loss on the evening.

Unfortunately, as is often the case for Williams, there were moments on Saturday when he was laying down on the turf having the staff look him over. The defensive lineman attended Monday's press conference with his right foot in a walking boot and didn't get into the nature of his injury but he expects to move forward from

it quickly.

"I got twisted up a little bit and it's something minor," he said. "Nothing too serious. I should be ready to go next week."

## PELINI REMEMBERS THE MIAMI RIVALRY

Nebraska coach Bo Pelini has been around football long enough to realize what Nebraska-Miami means to college football. He understands the classic games the two schools played against each other in the 80s and 90s defined the era, but it still doesn't mean as much to him as it does to Husker fans, he said.

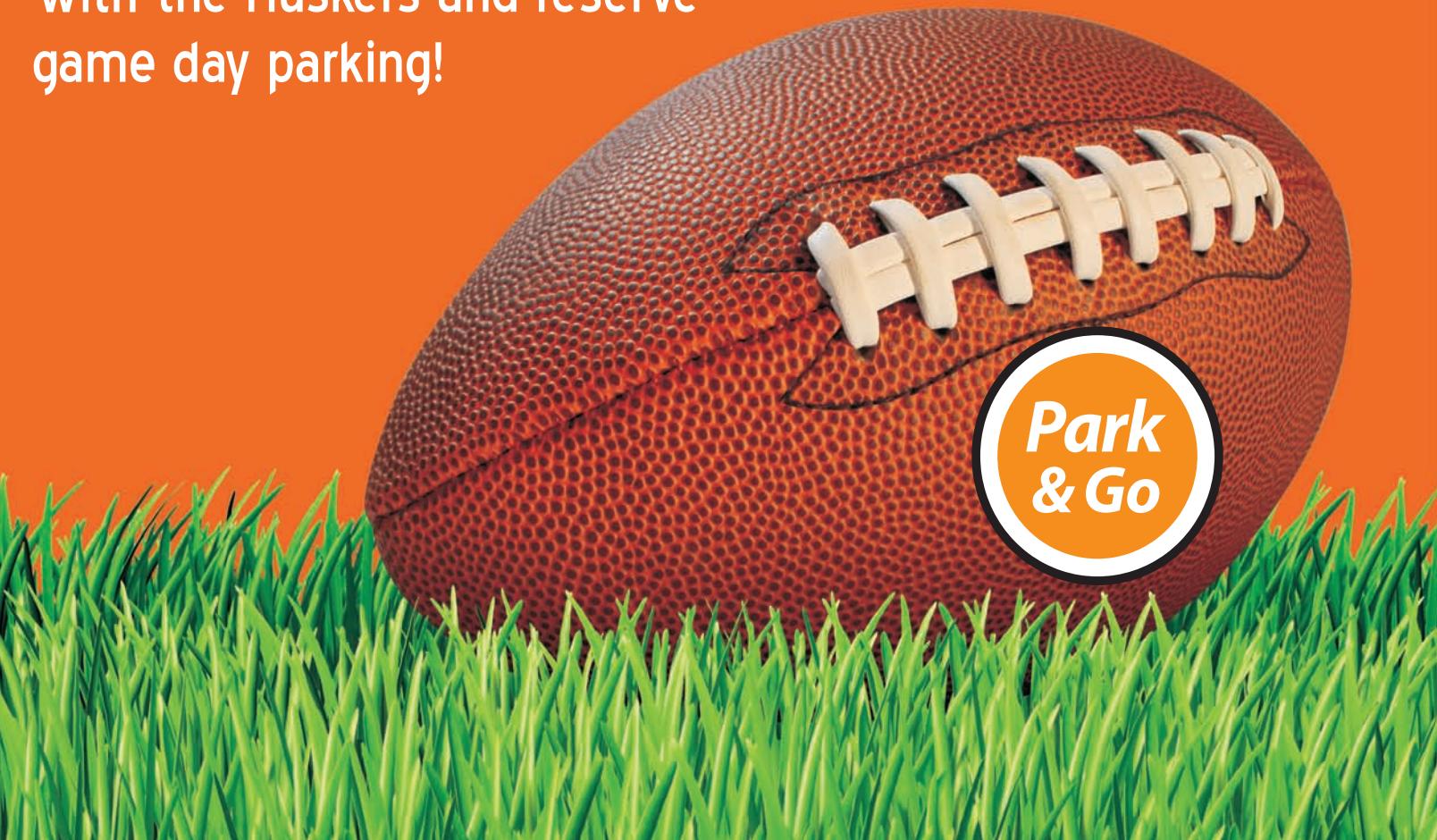
"That was a long time ago for me as far as where my focus was at that time, but there's a lot of tradition there," Pelini said. "Just the amount of times that Nebraska went down there to play in the Orange Bowl."

Pelini said he understands the ri-

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valry between the two schools from a personal standpoint more from his experience recruiting in the Miami era than watching the games.

"What becomes real obvious to me in recruiting is when you're out there recruiting in that area, how familiar – especially the coaches and the parents – are with Nebraska because of the number of times they were down there playing in that Orange Bowl and playing in that series," the coach said.

Although he was busy getting his coaching career off the ground in the NFL at the time, Pelini said there is one game between the Huskers and Hurricanes that sticks out in his mind.

"I've seen highlights and things," Pelini said. "There were some great football games in the series, but I'm sorry, the game I probably remember the most for me as a kid is the game where we went for two."

Pelini referenced the 1984 Orange Bowl, the only loss of the 1983 season, a game that cost Tom Osborne his first ever national championship. Nebraska lost that game on a two-point conversion attempt that would have put Nebraska ahead by a point. Instead of going the safe route, for the tie and most likely the national championship in both polls, Osborne elected to go for two and the win. It's a decision Pelini said he would have made too.

"Yeah, I would have," Pelini said.

## PELINI GRADES OUT ARMSTRONG

It seems like he's been around for longer, but quarterback Tommy Armstrong is only in his second season as Nebraska's starting quarterback, and he's still a redshirt sophomore. Pelini said he takes that into account when evaluating his signal caller.

"I'm seeing good progress. I'm seeing a good command," the coach said. "I think he's running the ball well with authority. I think he's throwing it well. And for the most part, knock on wood, he's

making good decisions."

Armstrong has shown a propensity for the deep ball in the early going, and Pelini said that's something that doesn't surprise him given the natural arm strength Armstrong possesses. Pelini is still looking for more accuracy, however.

"A big part of throwing the football is your technique, your footwork, your shoulders, your taking of the correct steps, whether that be a three-step drop, five-step drop or all the other different things that happen, both under center and in the gun," Pelini said. "That's a big part of it."

The grade on Armstrong as a runner is a two-part answer thus far. Pelini said he likes the aggressiveness and attacking nature the quarterback's brought to that facet of the game, but that mentality can be a negative as well.

"I wish he wouldn't try to hurdle guys," the coach said. "That makes me nervous when I see him coming down on his right shoulder. I'm not going to say 100 percent because I can't control everything, but I don't think you're going to be seeing that again anytime soon."

Overall, the coach said Armstrong is progressing right on track. There is still more for him to achieve.

"At the end of the day he's got to keep working at it during the week, keep looking at the film study and keep progressing," Pelini said. "That's what it comes down to. He's still a young player that has a lot to learn."

## REVAMPED SPECIAL TEAMS PAYS DIVIDENDS

In the offseason, Pelini sat down with his staff and addressed something that might not seem like a big deal – special teams.

The coach and his staff looked, in particular, at a few units that gave the Huskers trouble over the past few seasons and tried to find outside the box ways of fixing them.

So far, so good for the new stratagems the staff came up with. Punt returner De'Mornay Pierson-El has already run a punt back for a

touchdown and looks much more adept at catching punts than in previous years, and punter Sam Foltz has one of the top net yards per punt averages in the nation.

"I think that we've changed up some things philosophically," Pelini said. "We studied it pretty hard in the offseason. I think our guys have a pretty good understanding of it, and we're executing it pretty well."

The coach admitted that he was partially to blame for his team's special teams shortcomings a year ago.

"I've said this before, I was probably being a little too conservative in that area a year ago," he said. "We've made a conscious effort to do some different things, mix some things up and have some different looks and put a lot of time to it."

## RECRUITS VISIT CAMPUS

The Miami game was a big opportunity for the Huskers to land a few recruits and show others what the program is all about. Playing a marquee home game this early in the year, especially at night is a huge plus, according to Pelini.

"Being an atmospheric night game helps you, as far as being able to get guys in on Saturday, especially when they're playing on Friday night," he said. "There aren't a lot of bye weeks for high schools this time of year, so the night game helps you being able to get guys in."

The game was early in the season though, and Pelini does caution his staff about loading up on official visitors before kids are ready to commit.

"I think there's some give and take about what the best route is," he said. "There are some kids that are out of it and they want to come to a game. Sometimes it's hard to get things closed, to close something, because sometimes guys that aren't committed at this time of year and it will be one of their first official visits."

That made it even more important than normal for the staff and university to make a great impres-

sion, according to Pelini.

"You hope that whatever impressions are made, if he's not going to be a kid who is ready to make a decision yet, we want it to be a long-lasting one," the coach said. "Because he's going to see a lot of things between now and when the signing date comes."

## BURTCH DONE FOR YEAR

Nebraska got a little thinner at wide receiver this week after wide receiver Sam Burch tore his ACL.

Nebraska head coach Bo Pelini said after Thursday's practice that Burch will be done for the year. The junior wide receiver returned to practice this week after missing the opening three games because of a head injury, but tore ligaments in his knee. Pelini said the injury occurred this week as Burch was running a route.

"He's done," Pelini said. "It's a shame."

NU will once again be without wide receiver Brandon Reilly, who continues to battle a nagging hamstring issue. Pelini said he feels good about NU's wide receiver corps even with Burch and Reilly out.

"We feel good," Pelini said. "Fortunately we're deep. We'll get Reilly back, I'm not sure when, but you hate to lose anybody, but it's part of the deal, I guess."

## KELLY UNABLE TO PLAY AGAINST FORMER TEAM

Pelini also said that longsnapper Paul Kelly, who transferred from Miami, will not suit up in Saturday's game against the Hurricanes. Kelly not suiting up was part of the agreement that allowed Miami to support the NCAA waiver and allowed Kelly to transfer to Nebraska.

Pelini said he has been pleased with the performance thus far for snapper Josh Faulkenberry, who has stepped in for the injured Gabriel Miller this season. "Josh has done well. I've been real happy with what he's done. He's been consistent and I expect that to continue. He's done a real good job for us," Pelini said.



# RECRUITING NOTEBOOK

BY MICHAEL SCHAEFER  
RECRUITING EDITOR  
HUSKERSILLUSTRATED.COM

## NU not giving up on committed players

Part of the recruiting game these days is dealing with early commitments from targets you haven't had a chance to host yet. That's one of the top factors that Nebraska faces while recruiting. Many kids can't get to campus until official visit season but want to jump on an offer early.

Flips in college football are getting to be incredibly common. Nebraska generally adds a couple players each season that were once committed elsewhere – Chris Jones, Sedrick King in 2014 – but have also lost a number of players because of the same thing – Terrell Clinkscales, Jason Hall, Darius Slade.

Nebraska's trump card when flipping a kid is that they usually haven't seen a place that combines the history with the facilities. Most of these moves happen late and out of season, so they're not necessarily jumping because of game action – but rather a relationship built up with an assistant coach.

Here's a look at five committed players that the Huskers have a chance to flip if everything breaks

their way.

**Troy Henderson**, Linebacker, Syracuse – This one is going to be pretty interesting. The Huskers really like Henderson and are still actively pursuing the linebacker despite his late July commitment to the Orange.

Henderson also likes the Huskers. He was receptive to their pitches during the summer and even initially bumped back his decision date to give Nebraska a better chance as he had hoped to make a visit. The visit never materialized because of financial reasons, but now that the Huskers can pay to bring Henderson out to Lincoln the door remains open. Nebraska wants two linebackers and would be quite happy to have Henderson as part of that group.

**Lamar Jackson**, Quarterback, Louisville – Nebraska really wants Jackson as a quarterback in this class. The Huskers already have a commitment from Kevin Dillman, but given the issues that Dillman faces and that he'll have gone 1.5 years without playing varsity football, it's easy to see Nebraska's concern.

Jackson won't be an easy sell. He's already been to Lincoln. He's already been around the staff. He's not going to be wowed by anything other than the game atmosphere with the Miami game. Despite all of that he still committed to Lousiville before the season started. It's hard to see what else the Huskers can tell him to change his mind.

**Kenneth McGruder**, Defensive Back, Oklahoma State – The Huskers really liked McGruder this spring after getting plenty of tape on him while successfully recruiting his teammate Joshua Kalu, who has had a good start with the Huskers in the secondary as just a freshman.

McGruder committed to Oklahoma State in June, joining a couple teammates that have also ended up with the Cowboys. The Huskers had hoped to get McGruder up to Lincoln in the summer but will have to settle for getting him to Lincoln at some point this season.

**A.D. Miller**, Wide Receiver, Illinois – Nebraska wants a second receiver to join NeKyle Lundie and

Miller would fit the bill. He's got good size and athleticism. The Huskers are searching for more outside help.

Miller committed to Illinois in July but had said he plans on taking his visits anyways. Nebraska and Tennessee are a couple schools he's talked about visiting – with mention of a potential Illinois game visit for the Huskers. We'll see what comes of it but if Nebraska gets him on campus it changes the conversation.

**Andre Smith**, Linebacker, North Carolina – Smith is one of the most intriguing guys the Huskers will have on campus this fall. Nebraska needs a linebacker and Smith has the versatility to play inside as a MIKE or outside as a WILL.

Smith committed to North Carolina in October of the previous year, but the Huskers have had some success flipping commits from Jacksonville with Chris Jones from last year. The Huskers also have a big need at the position and touts Lavonte David as a selling point to all linebackers. **N**

# Joe Keels earns coaches' trust, begins to see extended playing time

BY MICHAEL BRUNTZ

**THE TRANSITION FROM** highly-rated recruit to immediate contributor at the major college level can often be a difficult one, particularly for junior college transfers.

That was the case for Nebraska junior defensive end Joe Keels, who enrolled at Nebraska in January, fresh off being a four-star defensive end and standout defender at Highland (Kan.) Community College.

Keels had to learn Nebraska's defense, while making the move from a 3-4 linebacker to a 4-3 defensive end. He also had to learn how to train and watch film. Just watching film for big hits – something he said he did in junior college – wasn't going to cut it at Nebraska.

Humbling doesn't even begin to describe his spring, Keels said.

"It surprised me a lot," Keels said. "Coming out of junior college, you're a top recruit and all of these schools are telling you how good you're going to be and when I got here, I thought 'I'm going to step right in and make a lot of plays' but it wasn't like that."

"It doesn't matter how good you are, if you don't know the technique, they can't trust you. It took longer than I thought, but they kept working with me and they didn't give up on me. (Rick Kaczenski) called me every night and told me what I needed to work on, and I kept plugging and I keep plugging because I feel like I can get better and better."

Keels saw his first extended action last weekend at Fresno State – a development that seemed a long time coming, and was the pay off for what had been a trying spring on and off the field.

While Keels was treading water in his first spring ball, his father, Everett Keels, passed away. Keels said he doesn't talk about his father's death much, but he credits Nebraska's coaching staff – in particular defensive line coach Rick Kaczenski — for stepping up to support him.

"They all stepped in," Keels said. "Coach Bo, Coach JP and Coach Kaz – he was the one calling every night making sure everything was OK."

Keels said his relationship with Kaczenski started back in the recruiting process. Keels had committed to Wisconsin, but Kaczenski encouraged Keels to continue taking visits. Keels eventually flipped to Nebraska, but even took visits after committing to the Huskers to make sure the fit was the right one.

"He gave me everything he had to offer and stayed with me through the whole process and I felt like it was somebody I should be around through the whole process and afterwards too," Keels said.

Keels credited his teammates – Randy Gregory, Greg McMullen and Maliek



**"It doesn't matter how good you are, if you don't know the technique, they can't trust you. It took longer than I thought, but they kept working with me and they didn't give up on me."**

Collins with helping him this summer. Keels said he spent many hours in the practice facility with Collins watching film and working on technique, but it wasn't enough to get him on the field early on.

Kaczenski has a well-earned reputation as an intense coach who demands a lot from his defensive linemen before they get on the field – trust and technique are paramount.

Keels wasn't rising up the depth chart despite a lack of depth at defensive end, and Kaczenski called Keels prior to the Florida Atlantic game and gave him a wake up call – practice better, or you're not going to play.

"Going into the FAU game, he said, 'boy you better practice better if you want to get in the games.' When I lost my father last semester, I felt like Kaz took on that role," Keels said. "Kaz is a father figure now and I know that no matter what goes on, he has my best interest."

Keels said his light finally went on after the McNeese State game, though he thought he likely wasn't going to see many snaps against Fresno State based on his reps in Friday's practice. But with eight minutes left in the first quarter, Keels found himself getting ready to go in the game. He finished with one tackle, but had his most extensive game experience of the young season.

"Kaz, he told me before the game, 'I have a lot of faith in you, so he put me in the game,'" Keels said.

The continued development of the 6-foot-3, 250-pound defensive end could be a big boost for Nebraska's defensive end depth. Keels said he feels more confident in his ability and grateful for Nebraska sticking with him through a difficult spring.

"I always call and text (Kaz) and say, 'thanks for not giving up on me,'" Keels said. "A lot of coaches, after the spring I had, would have put me to the back and moved freshmen up. He didn't do that." **N**

Read daily Husker reports from  
Michael Bruntz at  
[HuskersIllustrated.com](http://HuskersIllustrated.com)  
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## Scouting Report



# Illinois Fighting Illini

*Illinois makes second-straight trip to Lincoln to open 2014 Big Ten Conference season.* | DOUG GRIFFITHS

Yes, Illinois is 3-1, but who have the Fighting Illini beaten?

No one worthy of getting excited about.

Illinois' three victories have come against Youngstown State, Western Kentucky and Texas State.

The Illini's only game against a BCS

conference opponent came at Washington and it wasn't much of a game at all as the Huskies blew out the visitors 44-19.

## CAUSE FOR CONCERN

Illinois' defense hasn't exactly shut down opponents this season.

In fact, the Illini defense has really



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ILLINOIS SPORTS INFORMATION

Quarterback Wes Lunt has taken over the reigns of the Illinois program after transferring from Oklahoma State.

## THE VITALS

**WHAT:** Illinois @ #24 Nebraska

**WHEN/WHERE:** 8 p.m. CDT, Sept. 27 in Lincoln (Memorial Stadium capacity 87,000)

**TV:** Big Ten Network.

**Radio:** The Husker Sports Network broadcasts the action to 27 statewide radio markets. KFAB (1110 AM) serves as the Omaha affiliate and KLIN (1400 AM) serves as the Lincoln affiliate, while KRVN (880 AM) is a third affiliate that reaches around the state. Join Greg Sharpe (play-by-play), Matt Davison (color and co-hosts Husker Game Day Pregame Show), Lane Grindle (sideline/post-game, co-hosts Husker Game Day), Steve Taylor (co-hosts Husker Game Day Show and Big Red Reaction Show) and Matt Coatney (hosts Big Red Reaction Show and helps anchor postgame studio coverage) for all the action. The game can also be heard live on Huskers.com and SIRIUS Satellite Radio.

**COACHES:** Nebraska: Bo Pelini (62-24 overall, 34-14 in the Big Ten, seven seasons). Illinois: Tim Beckman (9-19 overall, 1-15 in the Big Ten, three seasons).

**SERIES:** Nebraska leads 8-2-1

## ILLINOIS FAST FACTS

**Location:** Champaign, Ill.

**Enrollment:** 43,398

**All-Time Football Record:** 589-553-51

**All-Time Big Ten Record:** 334-399-32

**Conference Championships:** 15 (last 2001)

**Post-Season Record:** 8-9

**Consensus All-Americans:** 25

**First-Team All-Big Ten Selections:** 170

**Lettermen Returning/Lost:** 47/17

**Starters Returning/Lost:** 17/7 (including specialists)

**Offensive Formation:** Spread/Multiple

**Defensive Formation:** Multiple

## DID YOU KNOW?

In all three of Illinois' wins this season, it has trailed in the second half.

## 2014 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Result
Aug. 30	Youngstown State	W, 28-17
Sept. 6	Western Kentucky	W, 42-34
Sept. 13	@ Washington	L, 19-44
Sept. 20	Texas State	W, 42-35
Sept. 27	@ Nebraska	
Oct. 4	Purdue	
Oct. 11	@ Wisconsin	
Oct. 25	Minnesota	
Nov. 1	@ Ohio State	
Nov. 15	Iowa	
Nov. 22	Penn State	
Nov. 29	@ Northwestern	

## Scouting Report



struggled.

In Illinois' last three games, it has given up 34, 44 and 35 points and two of those opponents were Western Kentucky and Texas State.

The Illini's best defensive performance of the season was in the opener when it allowed Youngstown State 17 points.

With that said, Youngstown State gained 380 yards against Illinois.

Western Kentucky gained 400 yards, Washington 464 and had Texas State 475 against the Illini D.

### TOUGH SLATE AHEAD

Illinois has a very challenging schedule upcoming.

The Fighting Illini face nationally ranked Nebraska, Wisconsin and Ohio State all on the road.

Michigan and Rutgers are the only other Big Ten teams to face more than two pre-season Top-25 teams on the road.

Last year Illinois' schedule ranked second in the Big Ten and No. 21 nationally in terms of opponents' winning percentage.

### LINEBACKERS LEAD THE WAY

Illinois' D counts heavily on its linebacking corps.

Junior Mason Monheim is the headliner. He's a 2014 Butkus Award candidate and ranks among the Big Ten leaders in tackles per game. Monheim has more than 200 tackles in his first two-plus seasons. He earned second-team freshman All-America honors in 2012 after becoming the first true freshman ever to lead the Illini in tackles.

Senior STAR Earnest Thomas III is also one to watch. He led the Illini in tackles in 2013 as he made 101 stops as a safety.

### OFFENSE IMPROVING

Under offensive coordinator Bill Cubit, Illinois' offense made huge improvements in 2013 and looks like it is making strides this season. The Illini jumped at least 50 spots in the national rankings from 2012 to 2013 in first downs, passing offense, long scrimmage plays, total offense, passing efficiency and scoring offense.

The passing game is better this season than a year ago, too, as the Illini are among the top-26 in FBS in passing offense, big

plays and passing efficiency.

### REMEMBER WHEN?

#### Nebraska 39, Illinois 19

*Oct. 5, 2013 at Lincoln, Nebraska*

Nebraska's Ameer Abdullah ran for a career-high 225 yards and two touchdowns to help the Huskers improve to 4-1 overall and win their Big Ten opener.

Tommy Armstrong started his second straight game in place of injured quarterback Taylor Martinez.

Armstrong led Nebraska to touchdowns on its first three series.

The Husker defense, one of the nation's worst through four games, held the Illini offense, which entered the contest averaging 40 points per game, to just five first-half points.

### LAST TIME OUT

#### Illinois 42, Texas State 35

*Sept. 20, 2014 at Champaign, Illinois*

The Illini used a second-half rally to get by visiting Texas State. Illinois scored 17 fourth-quarter points after the Bobcats built a 21-6 second-quarter lead. Illini quarterback completed 25-of-39 passes for 266 yards with two touchdowns and one interception. Texas State quarterback threw for 336 yards and four touchdowns, and ran for another score. He was picked off once.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Since 2001, Illinois has had nine comeback wins after trailing after three quarters.
- Illini running back Josh Ferguson ran for 114 yards on 19 carries and had 82 yards on eight catches last season against Nebraska.
- The Illini have 19 former players on NFL rosters, which is tied for sixth-most among the 14 Big Ten schools behind Ohio State (33), Wisconsin (32), Michigan (25), Penn State (25) and Iowa (23). Nebraska has 19, followed by Rutgers 18, Purdue 17, Maryland 14, Michigan State 14, Northwestern seven, Indiana six and Minnesota 6.
- Illinois has produced its fair share of great linebackers. Dick Butkus, Dana Howard, Kevin Hardy, Darrick Brownlow, Simeon Rice, J Leman and NFL legend Ray Nitschke have all donned the Orange and Blue.

### Coach Tim Beckman



**Resume:** Is one victory away from equaling his most wins at Illinois in a single season. The third-year Illini coach didn't win more than one Big Ten game

in either of his first two seasons in Champaign. Prior to taking over the Illinois program, Beckman was the head coach at Toledo (2009-11). He also was on staffs at Oklahoma State, Ohio State, Bowling Green, Elon, Western Carolina and Auburn.

### KNOW YOUR FOE

Wes Lunt, QB, 6-5, 225, So.



The Oklahoma State transfer has thrown for 1,237 yards, completing 65.8 percent of his passes with 11 touchdowns and just three interceptions.

Josh Ferguson, RB, 5-10, 195, Jr.



Leads the Illini in rushing with 316 yards on 50 carries and three touchdowns. He had a breakout season in 2013 when he rushed for a team-best 779 yards and seven touchdowns. Two of his 12 catches this year have resulted in touchdowns.

V'Angelo Bentley, CB/KR, 5-10, 190, Jr.



The junior is a preseason candidate for the Paul Hornung Award, which goes to the most versatile player in major college football. He's one of the best kick return men in the country after leading the conference in punt return average (15.8 yards per return) a year ago.

### 2013 RESULTS

(4-8 overall, 1-7 Big Ten)

Date	Opponent	Result
Aug. 31	Southern Illinois	W, 42-34
Sept. 7	Cincinnati	W, 45-17
Sept. 14	Washington	L, 24-34
Sept. 28	Miami (Ohio)	W, 50-14
Oct. 5	@ Nebraska	L, 19-39
Oct. 19	Wisconsin	L, 32-56
Oct. 26	Michigan State	L, 3-42
Nov. 2	@ Penn State	L, 17-24 (OT)
Nov. 9	@ Indiana	L, 35-52
Nov. 16	Ohio State	L, 35-60
Nov. 23	@ Purdue	W, 20-16
Nov. 30	Northwestern	L, 34-37

**BIGTEN BEAT** | COMPILED BY DOUG GRIFFITHS

# Conference goes 12-1 in week four, Michigan loses badly at home to Utah



The Big Ten took a couple steps forward toward regaining a tiny bit of respect, but one of its perennial powerhouses regressed with a surprising home loss.

The three eye-opening victories came from Iowa and Indiana both on the road and Nebraska at home against Miami.

The Hawkeyes beat Pittsburgh, while IU stunned SEC opponent and nationally ranked Missouri, the defending SEC East Division champions. Nebraska handled old rival Miami 41-31 on ESPN2.

As sweet as the aforementioned victories were for Big Ten fans, Michigan's home loss to Utah left more doubts about the Wolverine program and the future of Brady Hoke than their sound defeat a couple weeks ago at Notre Dame.

What continues to hurt the reputation of

Big Ten football isn't so much its known commodities like Michigan, but those lower division teams like Purdue, Illinois and Northwestern, who, despite winning this week, were less than impressive against FCS schools.

Following *Huskers Illustrated* recaps Week Four of football happenings around the Big Ten.

## EAST DIVISION INDIANA HOOSIERS

After losing at Bowling Green a week earlier, no one gave the Hoosiers a chance at nationally-ranked Missouri, but give credit to IU as it pulled off perhaps the Big Ten's most impressive victory to date.

Running back D'Angelo Roberts scored the game winner, a three-yard touchdown

## EAST DIVISION

### 2014 Standings

Team	Overall	Conference
Penn State	4-0	1-0
Maryland	3-1	0-0
Ohio State	2-1	0-0
Indiana	2-1	0-0
Michigan State	2-1	0-0
Michigan	2-2	0-0
Rutgers	3-1	0-1

## WEST DIVISION

Team	Overall	Conference
Nebraska	4-0	0-0
Illinois	3-1	0-0
Iowa	3-1	0-0
Minnesota	3-1	0-0
Wisconsin	2-1	0-0
Purdue	2-2	0-0
Northwestern	1-2	0-0

### Sept. 20 Results

Nebraska 41, Miami (Fla.) 31  
 Iowa 24, Pittsburgh 20  
 Michigan State 73, Eastern Michigan 14  
 Northwestern 24, Western Illinois 7  
 Purdue 35, Southern Illinois 13  
 Wisconsin 68, Bowling Green 17

Maryland 34, Syracuse 20

Utah 26, Michigan 10

Rutgers 31, Navy 24

Penn State 48, Massachusetts 7

Minnesota 24, San Jose State 7

Illinois 42, Texas State 35

Indiana 31, Missouri 27

### Sept. 27 Games

Illinois @ Nebraska, 8 p.m.  
 Wyoming @ Michigan State, 11 a.m.  
 South Florida @ Wisconsin, 11 a.m.  
 Iowa @ Purdue, 11 a.m.  
 Northwestern @ Penn State, 11 a.m.  
 Maryland @ Indiana, 12:30 p.m.  
 Minnesota @ Michigan, 2:30 p.m.  
 Cincinnati @ Ohio State, 5 p.m.  
 Rutgers IDLE

All times CT



# BIG TEN



run with 22 seconds left to give the Hoosiers' one of their biggest upsets in a long, long time.

"We've been talking about how we've been knocking on the door and now you have to knock it down," IU coach Kevin Wilson said. "We kept tapping on it and hadn't knocked it down."

Wilson's Hoosiers pulled off just the program's fourth victory against an AP-ranked nonconference opponent on the road.

## MARYLAND TERRAPINS

Maryland quarterback C.J. Brown threw for 280 yards and two touchdowns, plus cornerback William Likely returned an interception 88 yards for another score as the Terps won at mistake-prone Syracuse.

Maryland, which led 31-13 in the first half, entered the game averaging 37.7 points per game, the highest in school history.

Syracuse had a punt blocked, was penalized eight times for 89 yards and missed a 25-yard field.

## MICHIGAN STATE SPARTANS

The Spartans made Mid-American Conference foe Eastern Michigan look like a bad FCS school.

MSU scored the third-most points in program history (73), coming up just three points shy of matching the school record set in 1989 against Northwestern.

The Spartans found the end zone on their first five possessions.

They outgained EMU in the first half, 320-1 and had 20 first downs before the Eagles got their first, first down.

MSU finished with 336 yards rushing and nearly 500 yards of total offense, while EMU had just five first downs.

## MICHIGAN WOLVERINES

If Michigan coach Brady Hoke wasn't on the hot seat before Saturday, he definitely is now.

Hoke's Wolverines lost to Utah at home by 16 points.

After the contest, Hoke took issue with some of the boo-birds from the crowd of nearly 104,000.

"I don't like that with 18-22-year-old kids," Hoke said. "I know the fans pay their money and they have the right to do that, but I don't like it. If the boos are for me, that's fine."

The fans had plenty to boo about.

Michigan turned the ball over four times.

The game had a lengthy lightening delay in the fourth quarter and once it was resumed there were hardly any fans remaining as Michigan trailed 26-10.

## RUTGERS SCARLET KNIGHTS

The Scarlet Knights outrushed Navy's vaunted triple-option attack, 284-171, en route to a seven-point victory.

Justin Goodwin led the way with 104 yards on 26 carries. He replaced Paul James, who suffered a leg injury early in the second quarter.

Navy entered the game, leading the nation with 403 rushing yards per game, but it was held to just 171 against Rutgers.

"I thought our defensive coaches had an excellent plan," Rutgers coach Kyle Flood said. "Our staff has spent a lot of time studying what they do here. Even when you do spend a lot of time studying what they do, they are really hard to defend because they make great adjustments."

## OHIO STATE BUCKEYES

While the Buckeyes enjoyed a bye week, the storyline out of Columbus was what Coach Urban Meyer told HBO's "Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel." Meyer said he was depressed while coaching at Florida in 2009 when he lost nearly 40 points and was "mentally broke."

The Buckeye coach admitted taking Ambien and drinking beer "just to get to sleep." In '09, Florida was undefeated until it lost to Alabama in the SEC championship game. After the loss, Meyer was admitted to the hospital with chest pains. "I thought I was dying," Meyer said.

## PENN STATE NITTANY LIONS

Penn State remained unbeaten with a blowout home victory over winless Massachusetts.

After punting on their first two possessions, the Nittany Lions kicked a pair of field goals and scored six touchdowns on their next eight.

The Nittany Lions scored 34 first-half points after not scoring more points than they had in their previous three games.

Penn State rushed for 228 yards and gained 464 total yards, while its defense allowed just three yards rushing.

Penn State's 4-0 start is its best since the 2008 team ran off nine straight victories.

## WEST DIVISION

### ILLINOIS FIGHTING ILLINI

The Illini escaped Texas State's upset bid to win a 42-35 shootout.

Texas State led 28-25 with less than eight minutes left in the fourth quarter, but Illinois scored 17 points in a five-minute span to triumph.

Running back Josh Ferguson gained 190 yards rushing and accounted for two touchdowns.

Quarterback Wes Lunt threw for 266 yards and a pair of scores.

The Illini defense not only allowed 35 points, but gave up 475 total yards, including 336 yards passing.

The game was delayed for almost two hours by lightning.

## IOWA HAWKEYES

Hawkeye running back Mark Weisman ran for 88 yards and two scores, including a one-yard plunge with just under seven minutes remaining, helping his team rally for a big road victory.

Iowa trailed by 10 at halftime.

The Hawkeyes seemed to get a lift when starting quarterback Jake Rudock was replaced by C.J. Beathard. Beathard hit Diamond Powell for a 62-yard gain to really start Iowa's rally.

## MINNESOTA GOLDEN GOPHERS

Minnesota is 3-1 thanks to a home win over San Jose State.

Running back David Cobb ran for 207 yards and two touchdowns, while backup quarterback Chris Streveler ran for 161 yards and a touchdown in his first career start. Streveler was in the lineup because

# How Nebraska's 2014 Opponents Fared?



**FLORIDA ATLANTIC**  
Result: L, Wyoming 20-19  
Up Next: Texas San Antonio  
Current Record: 1-3



**MCNEESE STATE**  
Result: W, Prairie View A&M 48-16  
Up Next: Arkansas Tech  
Record: 1-1



**FRESNO STATE**  
Result: , Southern Utah 56-16  
Up Next: NewMexico  
Record: 1-3



**MIAMI**  
Result: L, Nebraska 41-31  
Up Next: Duke  
Record: 2-2



**ILLINOIS**  
Result: W, Texas State 42-35  
Up Next: Nebraska  
Current Record: 3-1



**MICHIGAN STATE**  
Result: W, E. Michigan 73-14  
Up Next: Wyoming  
Record: 2-1



**NORTHWESTERN**  
Result: W, Western Illinois 24-7  
Up Next: Penn State  
Record: 1-2



**RUTGERS**  
Result: W, Navy 31-24  
Up Next: Tulane  
Record: 3-1



**PURDUE**  
Result: W, South. Illinois 35-13  
Up Next: Iowa  
Current Record: 2-2



**WISCONSIN**  
Result: W, Bowling Green 68-17  
Up Next: South Florida  
Record: 2-1



**MINNESOTA**  
Result: W, San Jose State 24-7  
Up Next: Michigan  
Record: 3-1



**IOWA**  
Result: W, Pittsburgh 24-20  
Up Next: Purdue  
Record: 3-1

## WEST



starter Mitch Leidner was sidelined with a sprained knee and turf toe. As a result, Minnesota's passing game was almost non-existent.

Streveler completed just one of his seven passes for seven yards and was intercepted once.

The Gopher defense forced five turnovers.

## NORTHWESTERN WILDCATS

The Wildcats got their first win of the season, a 17-point victory over visiting Western Illinois, a FCS school.

Freshmen running backs Solomon Vault and Justin Jackson were the difference as Vault ran for two scores and Jackson had a game-high 92 yards on the ground.

Northwestern had lost nine of 10 games dating to last season.

The Wildcats were outgained 376-283 in total yards.

## BIG TEN



## PURDUE BOILERMAKERS

For the first time in the two-year Darrell Hazel era at Purdue, his Boilermakers have won two games in a season.

Purdue was far from great in its home win over FCS Southern Illinois, but it did jump out to a 25-0 early second-quarter lead and won by 22 points.

Quarterback Danny Etling threw a pair of first-quarter touchdown passes as his Boilermakers used a balanced attack to get by SIU. Purdue threw for 198 yards and ran for 183. Only 31,434 witnessed the contest in Ross-Ade Stadium.

## WISCONSIN BADGERS

What a game running back Melvin Gordon had. Against Bowling Green, he rushed career highs of 253 yards and five touchdowns, helping the Badgers run for a Big Ten-record 644 yards.

At halftime, Gordon had 179 yards and four scores.



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# Huskers Illustrated's Projected Nebraska Depth Chart

## P/Holder

Sam Foltz  
Johnny Stanton

## LS

Josh Faulkenberry  
Paul Kelly

## CB

Jonathan Rose  
Daniel Davie

## WDE

Randy Gregory  
Jack Gangwish

## DEFENSE

### FS

Nate Gerry  
Zach Stovall

### SS

Corey Cooper  
Anthony Ridder

## NICKEL

Byerson Cockrell  
Josh Kalu

## PR

De'Mornay Pierson-El  
Kenny Bell

## WILL

Zaire Anderson  
Courtney Love

## MIKE

Josh Banderas  
Trevor Roach

## BUCK

David Santos  
Austin Williams

## CB

Josh Mitchell  
Chris Jones

## WRX

Kenny Bell  
Lane Hovey

## LT

Alex Lewis  
David Knevel

## LG

Jake Cotton  
Chongo Kondolo

## C

Mark Pelini  
Givens Price

## RG

Mike Moudy  
Givens Price

## RT

Zach Sterup  
Givens Price

## TE

Cethan Carter  
Sam Cotton

## WRZ

Alonzo Moore  
Taariq Allen

## WRA

Jordan Westerkamp  
Lane Hovey

## QB

Tommy Armstrong Jr.  
Ryker Fyfe

## IB

Ameer Abdullah  
Imani Cross

## KR

Kenny Bell  
Alonzo Moore

## KOS

Drew Brown  
Spencer Lindsay

## PK

Drew Brown  
Spencer Lindsay

## FB

Andy Janovich  
Mitch McCann

## OFFENSE



## QUICK PICKS

### Last Week, Season

**Darren Ivy**  
(3-4, 13-15)

**Mike Schaefer**  
(7-0, 19-9)

**Michael Bruntz**  
(5-2, 18-10)

**Bob Hamar**  
(6-1, 16-12)

**Terry Douglass**  
(4-3, 18-10)

**Doug Griffiths**  
(6-1, 18-10)

**Lanny Holstein**  
(7-0, 22-6)

Nebraska vs Illinois	NU 42-17	NU 52-10	NU 45-17	NU 44-17	NU 48-17	NU 30-13	NU 45-10
UCLA vs. Arizona State	Arizona State	UCLA	Arizona State	UCLA	Arizona State	UCLA	Arizona State
Texas Tech vs. Oklahoma State	OSU	OSU	OSU	OSU	OSU	OSU	Texas Tech
Arkansas vs. Texas A&M	Arkansas	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Texas A&M
Missouri vs. South Carolina	South Carolina	Missouri	South Carolina				
Minnesota vs. Michigan	Michigan	Minnesota	Minnesota	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan
Northwestern vs. Penn State	Penn State	Penn State	Penn State	Penn State	Penn State	Penn State	Penn State



# SOUTH BEATRICE

41 miles

## Davie lets his defensive play do the talking



**WIDE RECEIVERS LIKE TO TALK. AT LEAST THAT'S THE REPUTATION THEY HAVE, AND HUSKER CORNERBACK DANIEL DAVIE ISN'T GOING TO ARGUE WITH CONVENTIONAL WISDOM ON THAT ONE.**

**HE'S BEEN OUT ON AND ISLAND WITH A FEW TOO MANY GUYS THAT WOULD RATHER TALK YOUR EAR OFF THAN CATCH A FOOTBALL**

"They are the divas of the field," Davie said of wide receivers. "I don't get involved in that. When those guys start bickering at me, I just laugh at it."

Davie said Fresno State had an especially talkative bunch of pass catchers when the Husker played them a few weeks ago. Even with the score getting worse and worse for the Bulldogs, Davie said they kept coming with the idle trash talk.

"I laugh at stuff like that and just point to the scoreboard," the corner said. "I've come across guys that like to get personal or point out your shoes or what you're wearing on the field. It's just childish stuff that I don't like to get into."

What Davie does like to get into is old-fashioned hardnosed football. The 6-foot-1, 190 pound junior likes to think of himself as a physical presence on the outside.

He likes to play up in the face of those trash talking wide receivers, and he also enjoys coming off the edge in blitz packages.

"I love making tackles," Davie said. "That's something I take pride in because corners have a reputation nowadays of not being strong tacklers, so that's a part of my game that I like to show off sometimes."

Davie said he and fellow corner Josh Mitchell have a similar attitude when it comes to helping in the run game.

They love to help out with a hit or two, and they are adept at getting off blocks.

"That's very important because nine times out of 10 you are not going to get a clean tackle," Davie said. "You have to use block protection and get off a block to make a tackle, so that's very important."

But don't mistake Davie's affinity for playing up in the run game as a sign that he shies away from being tested down the field or on the outside. The corner would much rather have the opposing offense chuck it than run it.

"Playing DB, that's what you want," he said. "You don't want teams running the ball all the time. You want to defend some balls and get a chance to create a turnover too. I look at that as a fun thing."

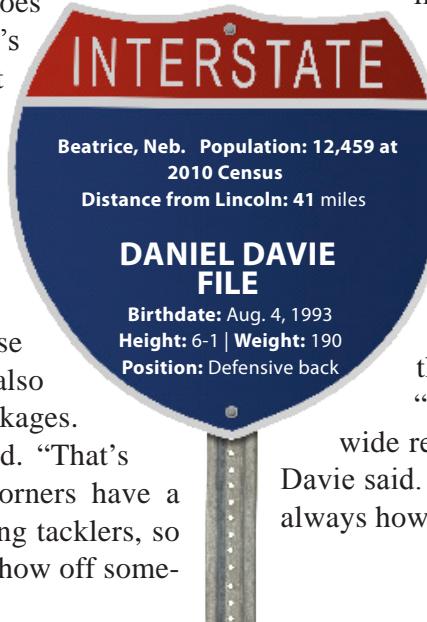
Davie moved around a lot as a kid, but he went to high school just south of Lincoln in Beatrice. He ended up getting a scholarship offer from the Husker coaching staff but had to wait a few years to get out on the field. Now that's he's on the field opposite Mitchell, he's wants any action he can get.

"I'm out here now, so any ball I can get thrown my way, I'm just going to make a play to help the team win," he said.

If he does make a play or two, even an interception, just don't expect him to engage in an extracurriculars with the opposing team.

"I just play, man. I'm going to let the wide receivers worry about doing the talking," Davie said. "I do my talking on the field, and that's always how I've been."

*~ Story by Lanny Holstein*



Daniel Davie covers a Florida Atlantic receiver during the season-opener.



Joe Mixan/Huskers Illustrated

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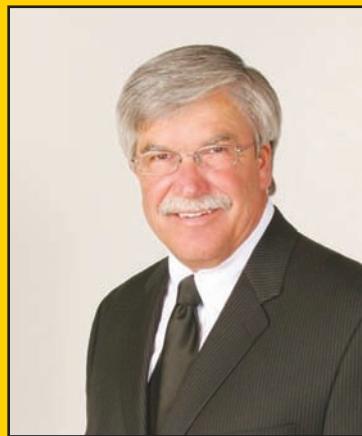
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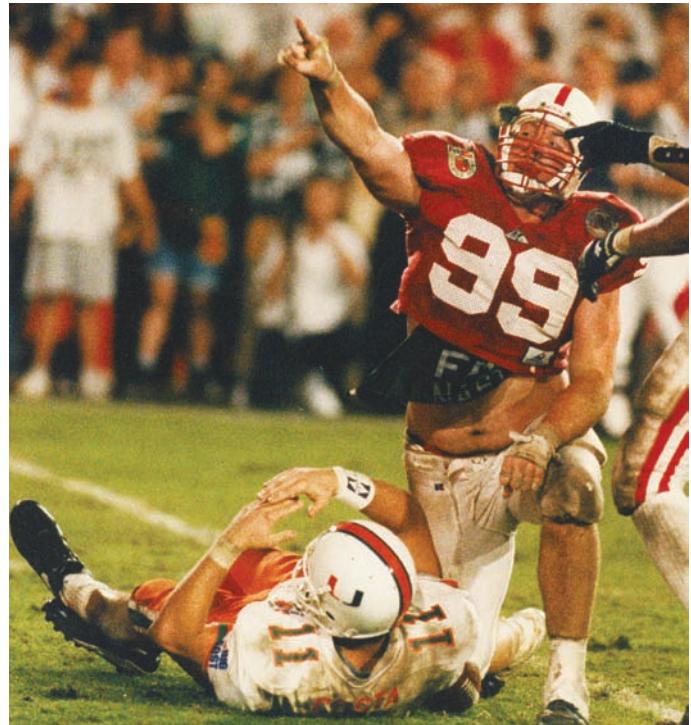
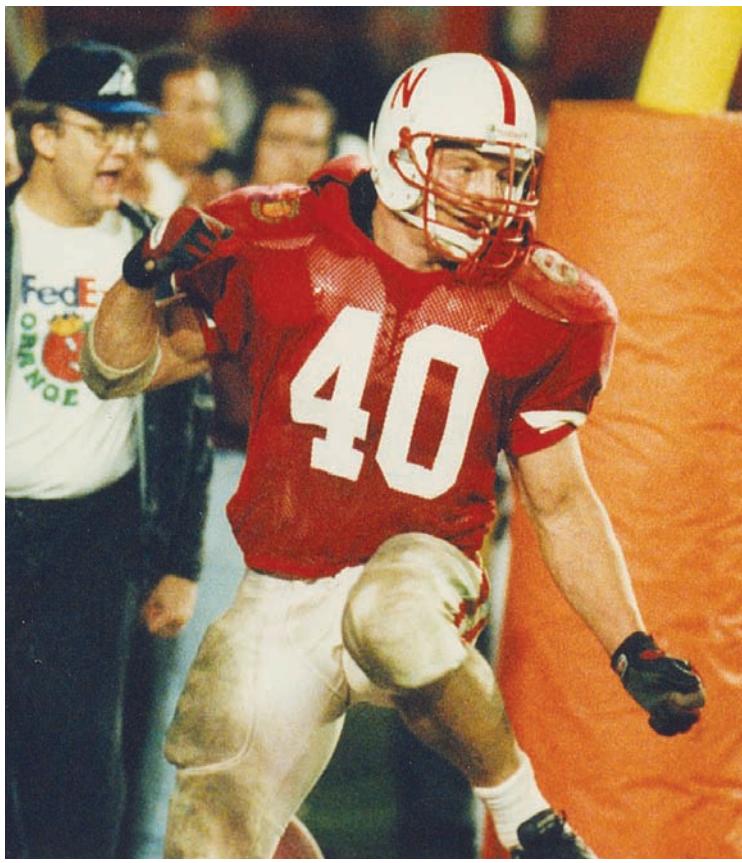
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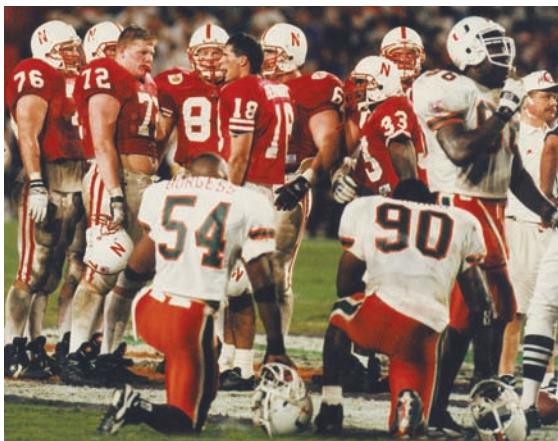
# Catching up with: **1994 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS**



Photos By Joe Mixan, Jimmy Rash, Mitch Otto/Huskers Illustrated



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Cory Schlesinger celebrates one of his two TDs in the 1995 Orange Bowl. Lawrence Phillips (1) lines up behind offensive line. Coach Tom Osborne greets fans. Damon Benning carries the ball. Terry Connealy sacks Miami quarterback Frank Costa in 1995.



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Clint Brown and Phil Ellis tackle a Miami player. Then freshman Grant Wistrom celebrates after the Orange Bowl win. Brook Berringer (18) barks orders in the NU huddle while Hurricane players take a break. Tom Osborn and Milt Tenopir line up on the field before the game as fireworks are shot off in the background. The 1994 team led by Charlie McBride, Tenopir Ron Brown and Osborn lines up to come out of the Tunnel Walk before the Miami game Saturday night.

# 1994 Husker Football Reunion



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: Zach Wiegert, Brenden Stai, Aaron Taylor, Joel Wilks and Rob Zatechka reunite with offensive line coach Milt Tenopir. The same "pipeline" pose with the 1994 National Championship trophy after the 1995 Orange Bowl. Terry Connealy and Ed Stewart carry the Orange Bowl trophy. Jared Tomich hugs former line coach Milt Tenopir. Former quarterbacks Tommie Frazier and Matt Turman stand with Jan Berringer and Brook Berringer's nephew during a special presentation at the Miami game. Brook Berringer passed away in an airplane crash not long after he won his second national title following the 1995 season. Former defensive coordinator Charlie McBride and defensive backs coach George Darlington stand with Tony Veland, Jared Tomich, Ed Stewart and Terry Connealy during a special presentation during the Miami game.

## Sept. 28, 1963

Dennis Claridge's 65-yard touchdown pass to Tony Jeter in the fourth quarter was the difference as Nebraska posted a 14-7 victory over Minnesota. In a game played at Minneapolis – Claridge's hometown – the Cornhuskers' quarterback was 4-of-8 passing for 89 yards and had a hand in both of his team's scores as he also produced an 8-yard first quarter TD run, tying the score at 7-7.

Sophomore running back Frank Solich, who was NU's head coach from 1998-2003, suffered a season-ending broken ankle in the contest.

## Sept. 29, 1979

Trailing 14-0, No. 6-ranked Nebraska scored 28 unanswered points in the second quarter on its way to a 42-17 victory over Penn State in front of a crowd of 76,151 at Memorial Stadium at an ABC television audience.

The Huskers pulled even on quarterback Tim Hager's TD passes of 11 and 70 yards to tight end Junior Miller and then pulled ahead on Kenny Brown's 16-yard scoring run and Andra Franklin's 5-yard score. Hager finished 14-of-22 passing for 215 yards, while I-back Jaris Redwine rushed 22 times for 124 yards.

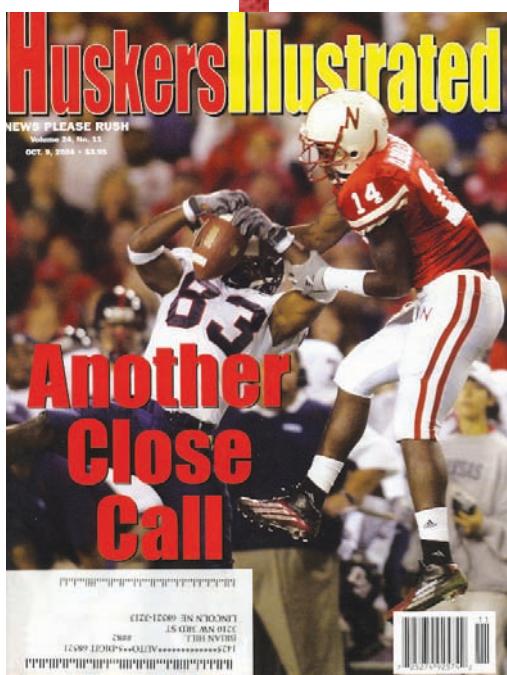
## Sept. 30, 1989

No. 3-ranked Nebraska recorded 11 sacks as the Huskers steadily pulled away for a 35-7 home victory over Oregon State. Thanks to 89 yards in losses on sacks, the Beavers finished with minus-36 yards rushing, which marked NU's third-best rushing defense figure in school history at the time. Still, OSU trailed just 21-7 until quarterback Gerry Gdowski's 60-yard TD pass to Jon Bostick put Nebraska ahead 28-7 with 13:39 to play and Mike Grant added a 9-yard scoring pass to Mark Dowse with 4:24 remaining to produce the final margin.

## Oct. 1, 1994

Playing without injured starting quarterback Tommie Frazier, No. 2 Nebraska almost saw its national championship hopes take a major hit before rallying from a 21-7 second-quarter deficit to beat Wyoming 42-32 at Memorial Stadium.

Backup quarterback Brook Berringer completed 15-of-22 pass attempts for 131 yards and rushed 12 times for 74 yards and three TDs to fuel the Huskers' comeback. I-back Lawrence Phillips added 168 yards and three TDs rushing on 27 carries. Berringer played through a collapsed lung in the orchestrating the comeback victory.



## Oct. 2, 2004

Nebraska first-year head coach Bill Callahan picked up his initial Big 12 Conference win as the Huskers leaned heavily on their defense during a 14-8 home victory over Kansas (pictured below) before a sellout crowd of 77,637 at Memorial Stadium.

NU defeated the Jayhawks for the 36th consecutive time, but it didn't come easy. Kansas led 8-7 on a safety and two Johnny Beck field goals before I-back Cory Ross scored the go-ahead TD on a 14-yard pass from quarterback Joe Dailey with 4:12 to play.

The Huskers limited Kansas to 308 yards of total offense and kept the Jayhawks out of the end zone. Junior cornerback Fabian Washington had an interception and NU finished with 11 pass breakups, including three by Washington and junior safety Daniel Bullocks.

"I thought it was an incredible team effort on defense. Their play was chilling in so many respects," Callahan said. "To watch our team play defense and to watch our coaches coach – it was exceptional – and the defense obviously won the game for us. We rewarded them the game ball and I can't say enough about each individual on that side of the ball."

## Oct. 3, 1925

Led by defensive tackle Ed Weir's outstanding play, Nebraska was able to bottle up the great Illinois halfback Harold "Red" Grange and post a 14-0 victory at Champaign. Grange, known as the "Galloping Ghost," barely averaged more than 3 yards per carry against the Huskers, who scored on Frank Dailey's 40-yard interception return in the first quarter and John

Rhodes' 2-yard run in the fourth as Grange left the game early. According to an Associated Press account, "Grange, unable to pierce the magnificent Nebraska defense and thwarted in his efforts to circle the ends, was taken out of the game a few seconds after the start of the fourth period broken and crushed."

## Oct. 4, 1969

Sophomore quarterback Jerry Tagge set a Nebraska total offense record, leading the Cornhuskers to a 42-14 road victory over Minnesota. Tagge completed 15-of-23 pass attempts for 219 yards and rushed for 82 yards, giving him 301 yards of total offense, which eclipsed the previous record of 264 total yards set by John Bordogna against Iowa State in 1951 and equaled by Frank Patrick against Oklahoma in 1967.

Larry Frost, father of future NU quarterback Scott Frost, had TD receptions of 38 and 43 yards as the Huskers outscored the Gophers 28-0 in the second half.

# IN THE RedZone

## Jacobson heads up South Dakota Cornhuskers

Defensive tackle Larry Jacobson hurries the quarterback.



HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED ARCHIVES

**By Kalani Simpson**

*Huskers Illustrated*

You may or may not have done well in geography in school, but now we're giving you another chance. Husker geography. That's right – this is the perfect subject for tailgate arguments, bar bets or radio drive-time talk shows (you're welcome).

It's time to answer that age-old question: Who is the best all-time Husker from each state? In the last issue, *Huskers Illustrated* looked at the best players to come out of Missouri and Tennessee. This week we move on to South Dakota.

**Husker Geography  
Part 18**

### SOUTH DAKOTA

**Larry Jacobson**

*Defensive Tackle, 1969-71*

Monte Kiffin – yes, that Monte Kiffin, he was then a Nebraska assistant coach – called Larry Jacobson and told him he'd won something called the Outland Trophy.

The what?

The Outland Trophy.

Huh?

Outland. O-U-T ...

We can excuse Jacobson for not having heard of it before he won it. Neither had we. He was the first Husker to win the Outland. The first of a long, long line.

Jacobson played on the other side of the line of scrimmage. He took up residence in the other

team's backfield. He disrupted things. He caused havoc. In the 1970 national championship game (the 1971 Orange Bowl), he caused a fumble. In the 1971 Game of the Century win over Oklahoma, it was his crucial stop that slammed the door.

Paired with Rich Glover on the same defensive line? Any team with the two of them on it would be unstoppable. And it was.

**Randy Schleusener**

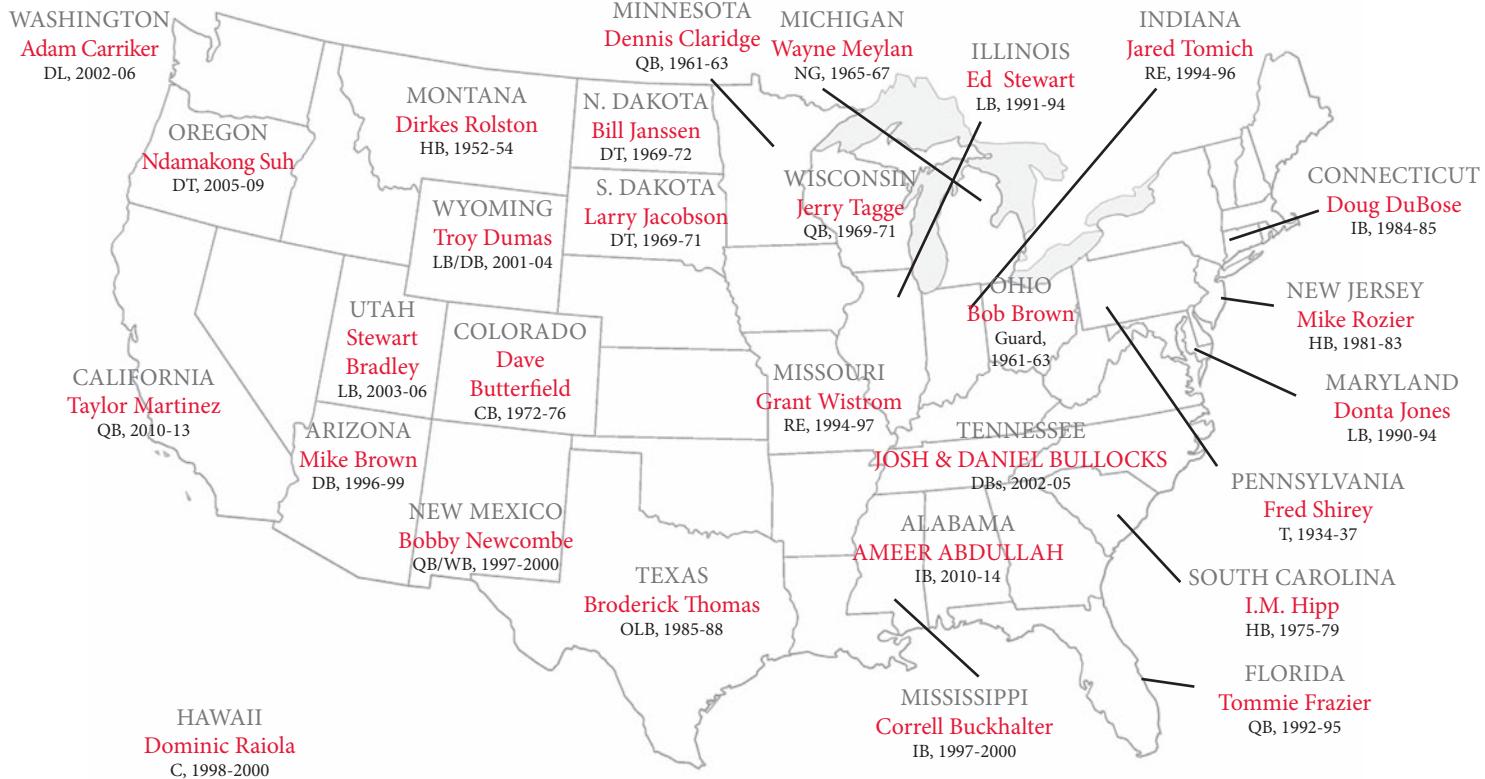
*Guard, 1976-80*

The fumblerooski.

Schleusener ran it, for a touchdown, in one of those all-time games against Oklahoma. He's often insisted it's the only reason he's still remembered today.

Nonsense.

# All-Time Greatest Huskers From Each State



Schleusener was a first-team All-American, a captain. Go down the list of those fumblerooskis. Dean Steinkuhler, Will Shields ... Tom Osborne only picked especially memorable players to take up the ball on that iconic play. And Schleusener was the first.

## John Dutton

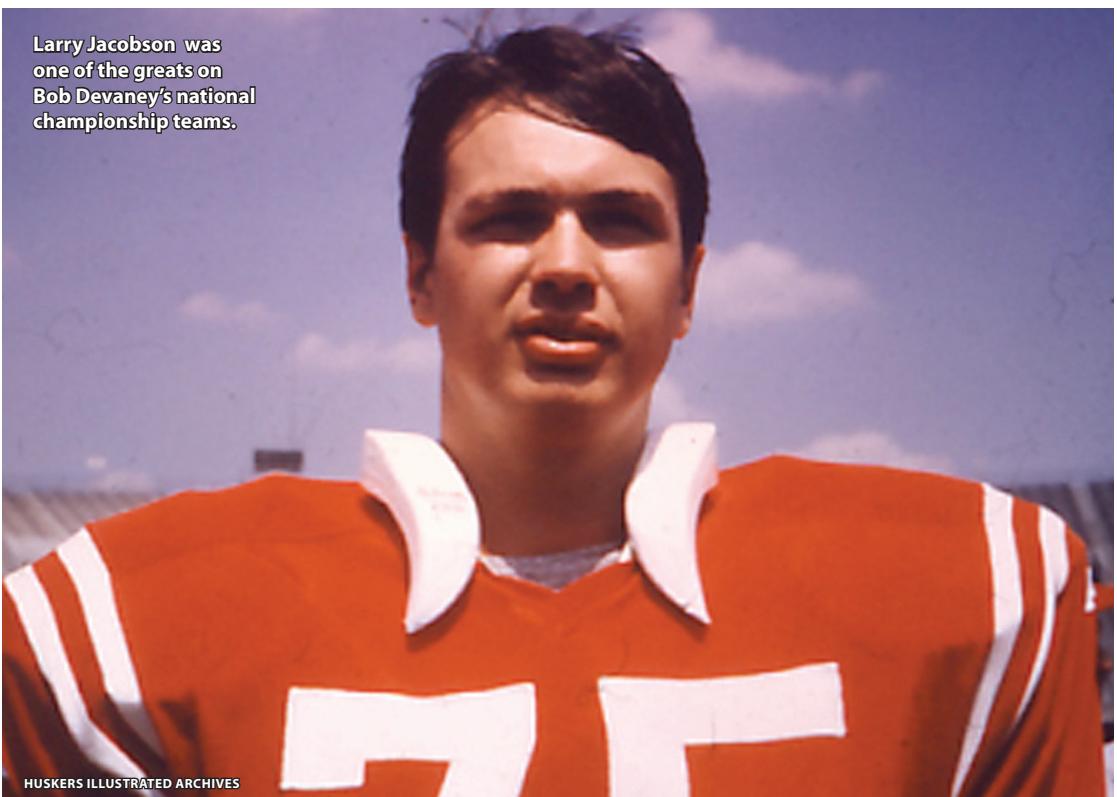
*Defensive Tackle, 1971-73*

Played on a national-championship team in 1971, consensus first-team All-American as a senior in 1973.

He was 6-foot-7, fast, ferocious, Nebraska's Bubba Smith.

He was a force in the pros too, once famously spending a bitter training-camp holdout farming back in Lincoln.

Larry Jacobson was one of the greats on Bob Devaney's national championship teams.



## CROSS COUNTRY

The Nebraska cross country team hosted its annual Nebraska/Woody Greeno Invitational Saturday morning at Pioneers Park in Lincoln. The Huskers placed well on a soggy course.

The men's team finished second in the 21-team field, and the women's team placed fifth in the 22-team field. Wichita State won both the men's and women's competition.

Sophomore Anna Peer continued her dominating stretch of races dating back to the regular season finale last season, as she won the women's 6k race in a time of 21:45.30. Peer was ecstatic after her performance, mentioning that she got into her groove around 3000 meters into the race.

"I am really excited how things went, my goal was to stay up there at the beginning and relax and see how the pace went," Peer said. "After around the 3k I kind of had a little bit of a lead and no one was coming with me so I just took off a little and it worked out."

Coach David Harris was also impressed with Peer's race, mentioning the conditions were not ideal, with muddy areas scattered throughout the course.

"First of all you have to hand it to Anna, she went out and won a Woody Greeno title and that has not happened very often on the women's side," Harris said. "It is soggy and wet today, I am really pleased with her performance today."

Peer was the first NU women's runner to win the individual title since Lara Crofford won it in both the 2010 and 2009 seasons.

Sophomore Joe Harter led the men's distance squad, finishing second overall (first in university division) with a time of 25:50.20 in the men's 8k race. Harter's performance was his second consecutive second-place finish, after his performance at the season open-

Anna Peer runs to the individual women's title at the Woody Greeno Invite.



MITCH OTTO/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

ing Augustana Twilight.

The Nebraska cross country team will be back in action at the Roy Griak Invite in Minneapolis Saturday Sept. 27.

## WOMEN'S GOLF

The Nebraska women's golf team heads for the mountains this week, when it continues its 2014 fall campaign at the GolfWeek Conference Challenge in Vail, Colo Monday and Tuesday.

A 17-team field from conferences around the country will converge on the Fazio Course, which has been rated as the No. 1 course in Colorado.

Jordan Chael leads Nebraska to the GolfWeek Challenge after finishing as the top Husker at each of NU's first two fall events. After finishing third at the Chip-N Club Invite, Chael tied for 30th in a 75-player field at the Minnesota Invitational, Sept. 15-16. The sophomore from Overland Park, Kan., carries a team-best 75.00 stroke average to Colorado.

Chael is joined by junior Cassie Deeg at the top of the Husker lineup. The Hugo, Minn., native carries a 75.83 stroke average through six fall rounds. Fellow junior Morgan Smejkal from Columbus, Neb., has added a 77.00 stroke average.

True freshman Audrey Judd has made an immediate impact on the NU lineup through the first

two tournaments of her career. The Olathe, Kan., native has produced identical totals of 233 in each of the first two tournaments.

Junior Cassidy Stelzmiller will round out the Husker contingent in Colorado with her first lineup appearance of the year. Stelzmiller tied for 18th as Nebraska's top returning finisher at the 2014 Big Ten Championships.

## WOMEN'S SOCCER

The Nebraska soccer team (4-3-1) suffered its first Big Ten loss of the season last Sunday, falling to Illinois by a 3-0 margin at the Nebraska Soccer Field.

The Huskers took six shots for the game, but failed to convert. Jaycie Johnson, Caroline Flynn and Courtney Claassen each managed one shot on goal, but Illinois goalkeeper Claire Wheatley saved all three to complete the shutout.

NU went into the locker room at halftime trailing 1-0 after Allison Stuckey scored off an assist from Amy Feher in the 40th minute. After being outshot in the first half 8-2, the Huskers took four shots in the second half, while the Fighting Illini took five.

In the 71st minute, Janelle Flaws put Illinois up 2-0 with her goal off an assist from Katherine Ratz. Flaws added a second goal in the 80th minute off an assist from Stucky for her sixth score of

the season.

Nebraska goalkeeper Kelly Schatz earned two saves in 90 minutes of play.

## SWIMMING & DIVING

Sophomore Katt Sickles and freshman Jordah Ehly each notched two victories this past Friday, leading the Cream to a 61-50 triumph in the annual Scarlet v. Cream Intrasquad Meet at the Devaney Natatorium.

Overall, the Cream won 10 of 13 events en route to taking a 6-5 all-time series lead.

The scarlet took an early lead with a victory in the first event of the meet, the 200-yard medley relay. Jacqueline Juffer, Sam Hardewig, Erin Oeltjen and Taryn Collura combined for the relay win.

The Cream battled back, rattling off four straight victories. In her return from an injury that caused her to miss the entire 2013-14 season, Katt Sickles raced to two individual victories. Sickles' first victory came in the 200-yard freestyle, and she also added a win in the 500-yard freestyle later in the meet. Jordan Ehly also added two victories, her first coming in the 200-yard individual medley and her second in the 100-yard breaststroke.

Alexandra Billunas added a victory in the 50-yard freestyle for the Cream, and Natalie Morris continued the momentum by racing to a win in the 100-yard butterfly.

The Cream's run came to an end when the Scarlet's Taryn Collura captured a victory in the 100-yard freestyle. Anna Filipic added the Scarlet's third and final victory for the day, winning the one-meter dive.

The Huskers will return to the pool on Sept. 27 for the annual Alumni Meet beginning at 10 a.m. at the Devaney Natatorium. The regular season opens in Iowa City on October 3.

# Coaches Corner

*with Dave Harris  
Head Cross Country Coach*



Huskers Illustrated reporter Lanny Holstein recently visited with Nebraska cross country coach Dave Harris, who is in his second season, to talk about his men's and women's first two meets this season in which the men have finished first and second and the women have come in second and fifth. The Huskers head to the Roy Griak Invite in Minneapolis on Sept. 27 before having some time off before the Bradley Classic on Oct. 17.

**HI:** What are the challenges and benefits of hosting your own Invite?  
**DH:** Well, this is our only home meet of the year. We don't have to travel, we're excited to run in Lincoln and we have a lot of fans out there. It depends on which race, but I think we'll have about 3,000 people out there, so it's a good event. We actually co-host it with Nebraska Wesleyan, so we spread out the work a little bit.

**HI:** Would you like more than just the one home meet?  
**DH:** No, because there are so few meets. We only run three in September, then one in October and we have our championships in November, so we don't race a lot. I think that's different than the old-school days where they used to race every weekend. I think we've cut back on that, so we can train and not rest all the time.

**HI:** What challenges does the Pioneers Park course give runners?  
**DH:** Well, I think it's a tougher course than what it looks like when you first pull into Pioneers. There is one major hill that the men run twice and the women once, but the first part is very fast. You have to come back going up that hill, so it's not as easy. It's a good course, not a flat course or a hilly course. It's a challenging course.

**HI:** You guys showed up well in the opening meet, getting first place (men) and second place (women). Did you expect that?  
**DH:** It wasn't a heavily Division I meet. We beat South Dakota and Creighton I think, South Dakota got us in the women. It was a good opener, about the right level for us. This one will be tougher, and so will the next one after that. That's how our schedule goes. It starts pretty low key, and then it gets a little tougher.

**HI:** How has Megan Lush performed since you added her last year midway through the year?  
**DH:** Well, we've learned to count on her, that's how she's performed. She ended up being in our top five at the end of the year last year. I'm very happy that she came into my office last year and talked to me about wanting to join our team. She's an extremely hard worker, a good leader.

This Week



Husker Athletics

**Friday, Sept. 26**

**Swimming**

Alumni Meet at 5 p.m.

**Saturday, Sept. 27**

**Volleyball**

Iowa at Iowa City at 4:30 p.m.

**Cross Country**

Roy Griak Invite at Minneapolis Noon

**Men's Tennis**

ITA All-American Championships at Tulsa, Okla.

**Football**

Illinois at Memorial Stadium at 8 p.m.

**Sunday, Sept. 28**

**Softball**

South Dakota at Bowlin Stadium 1 p.m. & 3 p.m.

**Women's Soccer**

Maryland at Nebraska Soccer Field at 2 p.m.

**Monday, Sept. 29**

**Men's Golf**

Mark Simpson Colorado Invitational at Erie, Colo.

**Tuesday, Sept. 30**

**Men's Golf**

Mark Simpson Colorado Invitational at Erie, Colo.

**Thursday, Oct. 2**

**Women's Soccer**

Michigan at Ann Arbor, Mich. at 2:30 p.m.

**Friday, Oct. 3**

**Swimming & Diving**

Iowa & Michigan at Iowa City, Iowa

**Volleyball**

Penn State at Bob Devaney Sports Center at 7 p.m.

**Saturday, Oct. 4**

**Football**

Michigan State at East Lansing, Mich. at 7 p.m.

**Swimming & Diving**

Iowa & Michigan at Iowa City, Iowa

# Family Tradition

## Reinertson brothers carry on golf obsession

Story By Darren Ivy • Photo Courtesy of NU Sports Information

Nebraska senior golfer Josh Reinertson has Feb. 22-24, 2015 circled on his calendar. Those dates are when Reinertson and his Husker teammates will head to the Puerto Rico Classic in Rio Grande, Puerto Rico. It might not be the most important meet on the Huskers' schedule, but it is special for Reinertson for several reasons.



A male golfer in a red shirt and black cap swinging a golf club.

Nebraska senior golfer Josh Reinertson led the Huskers at the Gopher Invitational.

# Men's Golf & Women's Softball

It marks the first time during Reinertson's time with the Huskers (2010-2015) that the team has been invited to the prestigious competition. Secondly, the Oklahoma Sooners will also be one of the other participants, and that is where Reinertson's younger brother, Rylee, is a freshman.

"When I found out in late August that we got invited to the Puerto Rico meet, I was pretty excited to be able to compete against him at least once in college," said Josh, who golfded for three seasons at Nebraska with his older brother, Jordan. "We will be playing for bragging rights. If my parents could somehow make it, I wonder what colors they will be wearing, if they would be half and half or what."

This past summer, the two brothers squared off at the U.S. Amateur qualifying tournament in Wichita, Kan.

Josh Reinertson posted rounds of 66 and 67 to finish 11-under par, while Rylee finished second after rounds of 70 and 67.

This gave Josh the automatic spot in the U.S. Amateur on Aug. 11-12 at the Atlanta Athletic Club.

"There's no better tournament in the country for amateur players than (the U.S. Amateur)," Nebraska head golf coach Bill Spangler said. "A great testament to his work ethic and perseverance and he qualified. A lot of good players never get in that tournament."

With his father, Paul, caddying, Josh failed to make the cut, but still gained a lot of confidence.

While training for that tournament, Josh shot a career-low round of 61 at his home course of Lohland Country Club in Hastings. His score, which also broke former Husker Brian Hewitt's course record of 62, was done in the com-

pany of Jordan, Rylee and Paul.

"Jordan and Rylee both shot 69s and they were in shock that that they got beat by that many strokes shooting three-under par," Josh said. "I think I had 11 birdies."

Josh was secretly hoping Rylee would become the third Reinertson to play golf for the Huskers, but didn't pressure him.

"It was a tough decision for him," Josh said. "We gave him room to make his own decision. We wanted him to take a look at what would be the best fit for him. Oklahoma was a good fit for him. I look forward to see how he does."

At Rylee's 2014 Class C State Golf Meet, Josh was ball spotting – much as Rylee did as a youngster watching his older brothers golf for Gibbon. Jordan was hanging back close to the tee box.

"I remember when Josh and Jordan were playing. Rylee was

the ball spotter," said Paul Reinertson, who coached the boys in golf and basketball. "He was going on ahead, making sure nobody picked it up, that it didn't get lost. It was kind of neat to see them reverse roles."

The three Reinertson boys seemed destined to play sports as their father was a basketball standout at Ravenna High School and later Kearney State. Mother, Carolyn (Thiele) Reinertson, also was a standout basketball player at Kearney State.

"They introduced us to the game when we were young," Josh said of golf and basketball. "It was a chance for us boys to compete and hang out. We went head to head every day in the summer in basketball or golf."

Carolyn likes to tell the story of a junior high basketball tournament when Jordan, who was in

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small group, large group and 1-on-1 training



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eighth grade at the time, and Josh, who was in sixth grade, were out warming up before a game. Then there was second-grader Rylee, who was also out there with his brothers warming up.

"Josh and Jordan did a great job of pushing him and showing him how to compete, and he never backed away from a challenge," Paul said.

With his youngest graduated, Paul retired from coaching, with the hopes that he would be able to make some of Josh and Rylee's competitions this year.

"What dad would not like to spend every day with their sons?" he asked aloud. "I feel kind of blessed to be able to spend every day with my kids. That's something I'm going to cherish for a long time."

Josh said he cherished his three years he got to spend golfing and living with Jordan.

"I miss having him on the team," Josh said. "He not only is my brother, but he also is my best friend."

In his first year without Jordan, who is now a substitute teacher in the Tri-Cities area, Josh sat out of every tournament in the fall 2013. However, in spring 2014, he used consistent play to become a leader at the end of the season. He finished with a 73.85 stroke average in 13 rounds, highlighted by a fifth-place finish at the Oak Hill Intercollegiate. He tied for 44th out of 309 competitors at the Big Ten Championships.

At the first meet this year, (Gopher Invitational on Sept. 6-8 in Minneapolis) Josh finished 24th individually to lead Nebraska's golfers to a 10th place finish. On his final round, he shot a two-under par 69 and finished the three-day tournament with a 12-over-par score of 225.

"I am really excited about this year," Reinertson said. "I am expecting a lot out of myself and the team this year."

# 10 questions

## with Mattie Fowler Senior Infielder



### 1 How hard was it on you going down last season in just the 11th game with a knee injury?

MF: It was very tough because it was my second time around with the knee injury. I was familiar with the recovery process, but you want to be there with your team. Really, it is your teammates and your coaches and your trainers that get you through everything, just having the base the fall on.

### 3 You had the first knee injury in between your freshman and sophomore seasons. How did that injury affect you?

MF: My freshman year I played shortstop, and then my sophomore year I made the transition to first base. At the time, it was a little easier for me. I was still working on lateral movement, getting back to full range, so I made the transition to first base. It was a great move for me. I love playing first base, and it's worked out well.

### 4 What is your natural position?

MF: I don't know if there is a natural position. I think that's one of the great things about college is that you get to play a lot of different positions. I think that's something that's strong about our team this year too. We have a lot of options and a lot of really fun competitions going on at different positions.

### 5 Will you get a medical redshirt and be able to play two more seasons?

MF: Yes. I actually got a medical waiver granted about a month ago. I will be graduating this May, so right now, I'm working on applying to grad school here so that I can take grad school classes and continue playing.

### 7 Who would you say keeps things light on the team?

MF: I would say Kiki Stokes is kind of known on our team because she has a couple alter egos and personalities that she can give the team when we need different kind of pep talks. She is very funny and quick on her feet with that.

### 8 Could you explain these alter egos?

MF: The most notorious one we call "Coach Oak" because she puts on the Oakley's and becomes "Coach Oak." She actually spoke at one of our booster events in her persona. It's very funny, like a coach who is pumping up the team. When the Oakley's go on, we know we have an interesting message coming out of Kiki.

### 9 Do you have any good Coach Revelle stories?

MF: We had a thing going on Twitter maybe two or three years ago called "Revelling" which is the classic Coach Revelle fist pump. That's something that she's kind of known for. You know things are going well when we see "Revelling" coming out, and it's an awesome way to get excited. It's something that we can kind of make fun of. It's fun to toss out a Coach Revelle fist pump from time to time.

### 2 Take me through that play. What happened?

MF: First of all, we were playing Arizona, and my sister is a pitcher for Arizona, so all my parents and grandparents were there. It was kind of an unfortunate event, but injuries happen in the game. It was a ground ball to first base, and a girl broke for home, so I turned to throw her out at home. My knee gave out on me, but I did get her out at home, so that's the important thing.

### 6 How close to 100 percent are you now?

MF: I'm getting close. It's progress every single day to get back. We are in the middle of fall camp right now, so I'm kind of easing back into things, so that I am 100 percent ready to go in the spring.

### 10 What do the coaches think when she turns into "Coach Oak"?

MF: They love it. Sometimes they request it. We get practice plans before each day, and sometimes they will throw on there something like 'opening practice message from Coach Oak,' and she comes ready to go.

*As interviewed by Huskers Illustrated's Lanny Holstein*

Meghan Haggerty has led the Huskers in blocking so far this season.



Story By Bob Hamar • Photo by Joe Mixan

# Haggerty improves block

## Junior middle takes Coach Cook's words to heart

**JOHN COOK PASSED MEGHAN HAGGERTY IN THE HALLWAY LAST WEEK AS SHE WAS GETTING READY TO TALK TO REPORTERS. COOK TOLD THE JUNIOR MIDDLE BLOCKER TO WATCH WHAT SHE SAID, AND SHE KNEW EXACTLY WHAT HE MEANT.**

Cook wanted Haggerty to avoid two of her favorite words

or phrases: "like" and "I don't know."

Haggerty did her best during the interview. A couple of "likes" might have snuck in, but not too many. Haggerty tries her best to listen to the head coach of the Husker volleyball team.

Just like when Cook had a serious volleyball conversation with Haggerty this past summer.

It came after the team returned for its trip to Japan and China in June.

"Meghan was told if she didn't make changes she wasn't going to play," Cook said. "She wouldn't be on the court. Butt on bench worked again. It sends a message to the brain like, 'I better figure this out or I'll be sitting on the bench.'"

When John Cook talks, whether it's about language or volleyball, Haggerty listens. She said it was more a mindset than anything physical.

"Just stay motivated, not so much people keeping me motivated but I had to motivate myself overall," Haggerty said. "That was the thing I found and I think it's starting to work."

Haggerty's statistics may not really show her true improvement. As of last week, she was fifth on the team with 1.41 kills per set but she has only had 66 attacks in seven matches.

Haggerty's biggest improvement has come in her blocking. She leads the Huskers with 1.14 blocks per set.

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**"Meghan has made tons of improvement. I'm really, really proud of how hard she has worked to improve. If you watch a video, and we point this out to her, you see how much of a better blocker she is."**

**John Cook**  
NU head volleyball coach

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"Meghan has made tons of improvement," Cook said. "I'm really, really proud of how hard she has worked to improve. If you watch a video, and we point this out to her, you see how much of a better blocker she is. Technically she is doing what we've been working on. Last year we couldn't get her to do what we wanted her to do. Now I see it over and over again in video."

Haggerty's improvement has helped the Huskers improve their blocking as a team.

Cook wasn't happy with the team's performance in that area early, but has seen steady improvement as the season has gone on.

And Haggerty is a big part of that.

"The footwork and also just reading the ball," Haggerty said when asked for the keys for the Huskers' improvement. "We work on eye work a lot. It's just everything kind of flowing together, getting your arms going but your legs have to work yet. So that's been a big key."

"We all have confidence in blocking. That's one of our keys. We spend a lot of time on it in practice. I think we're finally getting it."

Things worked for Haggerty early in her career. Coming out of Benet Academy in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, she became the eighth true freshman to start the first match of her career. Haggerty averaged 1.98 kills and .97 blocks per set that season.

Haggerty hammered 17 kills against UCLA in her second match as a Husker. Those 17 kills were the most by a Husker middle blocker since Tracy Stalls had 17 in an NCAA

## 2014 Nebraska Volleyball Schedule

Aug. 23, 2014	Red-White Game	Devaney Center	White 3-1
AVCA Showcase			
Aug. 29, 2014	Florida State	Devaney Center	L, 3-1 (0-1)
Aug. 31, 2014	Stanford	Devaney Center	L, 3-0 (0-2)
Flyer-Raider Invite			
Sept. 5, 2014	Dayton	Dayton, Ohio	W, 3-0 (1-2)
Sept. 6, 2014	CSU-Bakersfield	Dayton, Ohio	W, 3-1 (2-2)
Sept. 6, 2014	Eastern Kentucky	Dayton, Ohio	W, 3-0 (3-2)
Ameritas Players	Challenge		
Sept. 12, 2014	Denver	Devaney Center	W, 3-0 (4-2)
Sept. 13, 2014	Colgate	Devaney Center	W, 3-0 (5-2)
Sept. 17, 2014	Creighton	Devaney Center	W, 3-1 (6-2)
Sept. 20, 2014	Texas	Devaney Center	L, 3-2 (6-3)
Sept. 24, 2014	Iowa *	Devaney Center	TBA
Sept. 27, 2014	Iowa *	Iowa City, Iowa	TBA
Oct. 3, 2014	Penn State *	Devaney Center	TBA
Oct. 4, 2014	Ohio State *	Devaney Center	TBA
Oct. 10, 2014	Michigan State *	East Lansing, MI	TBA
Oct. 11, 2014	Michigan *	Ann Arbor, MI	TBA
Oct. 15, 2014	Northwestern *	Devaney Center	TBA
Oct. 18, 2014	Illinois *	Devaney Center	TBA
Oct. 22, 2014	Minnesota *	Minneapolis	TBA
Oct. 26, 2014	Wisconsin *	Madison, Wis.	TBA
Oct. 31, 2014	Rutgers *	Piscataway, N.J.	TBA
Nov. 1, 2014	Maryland *	College Park, Md.	TBA
Nov. 5, 2014	Purdue *	Devaney Center	TBA
Nov. 8, 2014	Indiana *	Devaney Center	TBA
Nov. 12, 2014	Michigan State *	Devaney Center	TBA
Nov. 16, 2014	Maryland *	Devaney Center	TBA
Nov. 19, 2014	Indiana *	Bloomington, Ind.	TBA
Nov. 22, 2014	Michigan *	Devaney Center	TBA
Nov. 26, 2014	Illinois *	Champaign, Ill.	TBA
Nov. 29, 2014	Penn State *	State College	TBA
NCAA Tourney			
Dec. 4-6, 2014	TBD	College Sites	TBA
Dec. 13-14, 2014	TBD	Regional Sites	TBA
Dec. 18, 2014	TBD - Semifinals	Oklahoma City, OK	TBA
Dec. 20, 2014	Championship	Oklahoma City	6:35 p.m.

semifinal match against UCLA in 2006.

Haggerty wasn't as good as a blocker.

"I would say it was a weak part of my game," Haggerty said. "I love attacking. That kind of came easy to me. Blocking is definitely where I wanted to improve."

And she has improved, along with many of her teammates.

"I have seen Meghan much improved," Cook said. "Melanie (Keil) is 10-fold improved. Amber (Rolfzen) is going to be a great blocker for us. She's a shut-down blocker, same with Kadie (Rolfzen). Overall that's going to be a strength for us and needs to be."

# NEBRASKA VOLLEYBALL NOTEBOOK

Compiled by Bob Hamar • Photos by Mitch Otto

## CREIGHTON BACK ON NEBRASKA'S SCHEDULE

Nebraska played Creighton last week for the first time since 2011. Husker coach John Cook said the series ended temporarily because of scheduling difficulties for both teams.

Cook said the expectations of the Creighton program, led by head coach Kirsten Bernthal-Booth, have changed. Now they see themselves as a Top 25-type of program. That's one of the reasons the Huskers got the Bluejays back on the schedule.

"She's talking Final Four, regional finals, Sweet 16s, all those things," Cook said. "That's one thing. It's a team close by that we can play. We're going to play up there next year in the CenturyLink. That worked out well."

"And at times there are going to be a lot of Nebraska kids on the court. I think that's significant for the volleyball in this state to let these kids be able to play at Devaney."

Creighton has 10 former Nebraska high school players on the roster. Nebraska has six. That just continues a tradition of Division I volleyball talent coming from the state.

Cook and assistant coach Dani Busboom-Kelly attended a high school match recently between Omaha Marian and Lincoln Southwest. Cook said it was a lot better than a match he watched in Kansas not long ago.

"I turned to Dani and said, 'Volleyball in this state is really good for high school,'" Cook said. "I mean it's impressive. There was some really good volleyball. I saw it at Southwest High School. So this is a reflection of that."

There are more examples around the Midwest. Kansas is now ranked and has two starting outside hitters from Nebraska. Kansas State has two starters from Grand Island. Nebraska-Kearney is ranked in Division II and Wayne State has been successful with Nebraska players. Nebraska-Omaha, with 11 Nebraska high school players on the roster, beat Tennessee earlier this season.

"Pretty amazing for 1.8 million," Cook said. "It's something for all of us to be really proud of."

## STANDING-ROOM ONLY

The Huskers sold 400 standing-room only tickets for the Sept. 12 match against Denver. The next night, they sold 500 when they played Colgate.

Cook said that kind of support is great, but it does put some added pressure on his players.

"Our kids feel a big responsibility," Cook said. "When you have 500 standing-room only and the place is packed, they want to win. Sometimes they put too much pressure on themselves."

Cook feels the pressure too. He said he may put too much on his players, but "people care if we lose here. It's a big deal. For most college volleyball programs, if they win or lose it's no big deal."

## ROLE PLAYING

Cook has done quite a bit of experimenting during the non-conference season. He wanted to have everything ironed out by the time they opened the Big Ten season Sept. 25 against Iowa.

Cook said the chemistry has been building since the Dayton Invitational the second weekend of the season.

"They're all working really hard and figuring out their roles," Cook said. "Anni (Albrecht) is playing a little bit and Sydney Townsend is playing a little bit. We have a couple of new ones we've put in since Asia. I think everyone is figuring out their roles and getting comfortable with that. As a group, I just think there's a better rhythm to that. It started in Dayton, it's continued and it's building."

Cook has seen improvement in all areas, but there was still one thing missing. He is still looking for that go-to player, someone like All-American Kelsey Robinson from last year's team.

"I feel like we're better in all those areas, except the part about stepping up," Cook said. "That's the Robo factor. Robo was willing to do it and tried to do it. We have to get some other people who will do it."

## NO LOOKING AHEAD

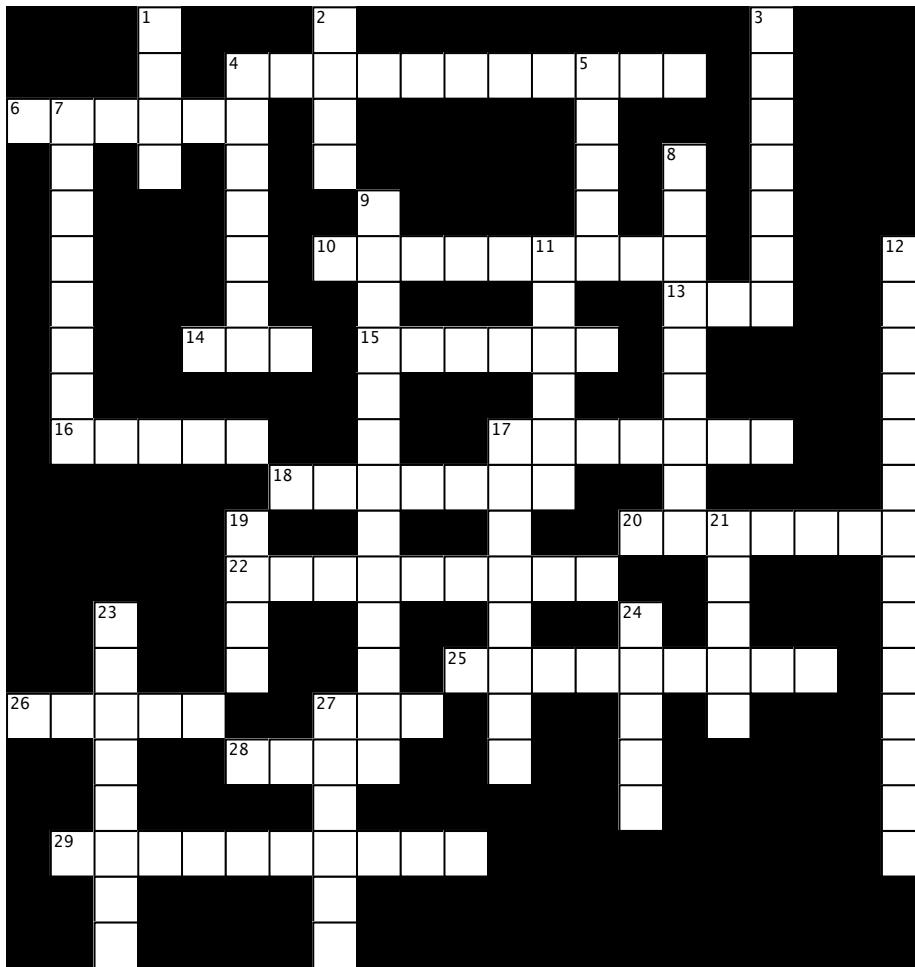
No coach would ever admit it, but some teams can look past one team and on to the next. That was a potential problem for the Huskers a week ago when they played Creighton on Wednesday and Texas on Saturday, but Cook said that this team won't do that.

"With this group, we take it day by day, moment by moment," Cook said. "I don't think they get too far ahead. We have enough to work on today without worrying about who we're playing this next Saturday."



## Crossword/Cartoon

### SEPTEMBER 27 CROSSWORD PUZZLE



#### ACROSS

4. Sam Foltz's hometown
6. 1997 Outland Trophy winner
10. Big 10 Special Teams Player of the Week for week 3
13. Linebackers coach
14. 2015 non-conference opponent
15. Ex-Husker All-American whose son played for Fresno State
16. Sophomore walk-on who had first 3 receptions vs. Fresno State
17. Wears No. 7 (defense)
18. Wears No. 5 (offense)
20. Illinois head coach
22. Wears No. 4 (offense)
25. Defensive line coach
26. NU's bowl game after 2013 season
27. Network for NU-Illinois telecast
28. Illinois school color
29. Had touchdown catches in each of first 3 games

#### DOWN

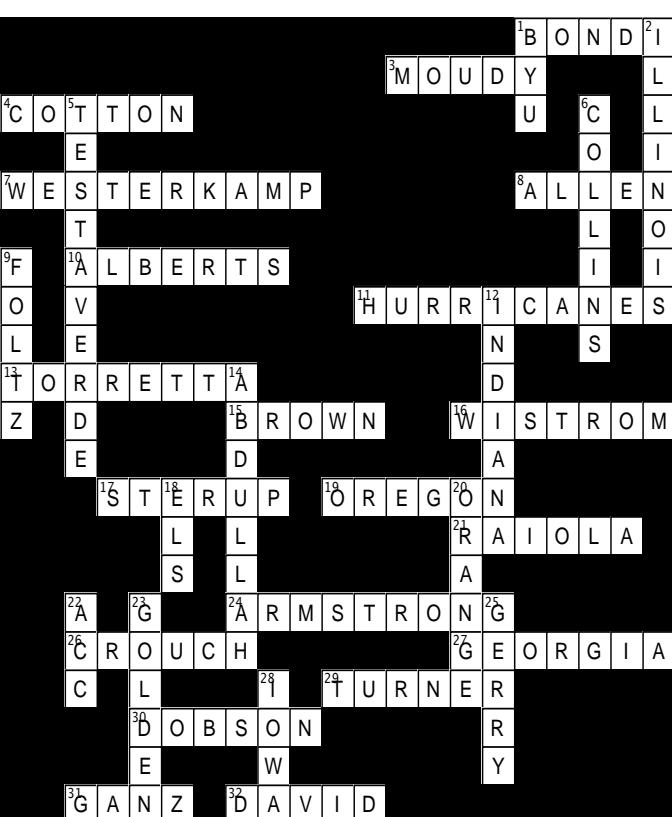
1. Leading receiver vs. Fresno State
2. Leading tackler vs. Fresno State
3. Oct. 25 opponent
4. Wears No. 4 (defense)
5. Wears No. 7 (offense)
7. Had 57-yard touchdown run vs. Fresno State
8. Had 2 sacks vs. Fresno State
9. Oct. 4 opponent
11. 2017 non-conference opponent
12. Illinois nickname
17. Kenny Bell's home state
19. Ex-Husker wide receiver now with Washington Redskins
21. Had 62-yard touchdown run vs. Fresno State
23. Wears No. 5 (defense)
24. Drew Brown's home state
27. Illinois college, pro football hall of fame linebacker

### Prognostications of Joe Husker



Nebraska opens conference play by dismantling the Fighting Illini.  
BTW - very intimidating "I" mascot.

### SEPTEMBER 20 CROSSWORD SOLUTION



THE ORIGINAL MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO NEBRASKA ATHLETICS

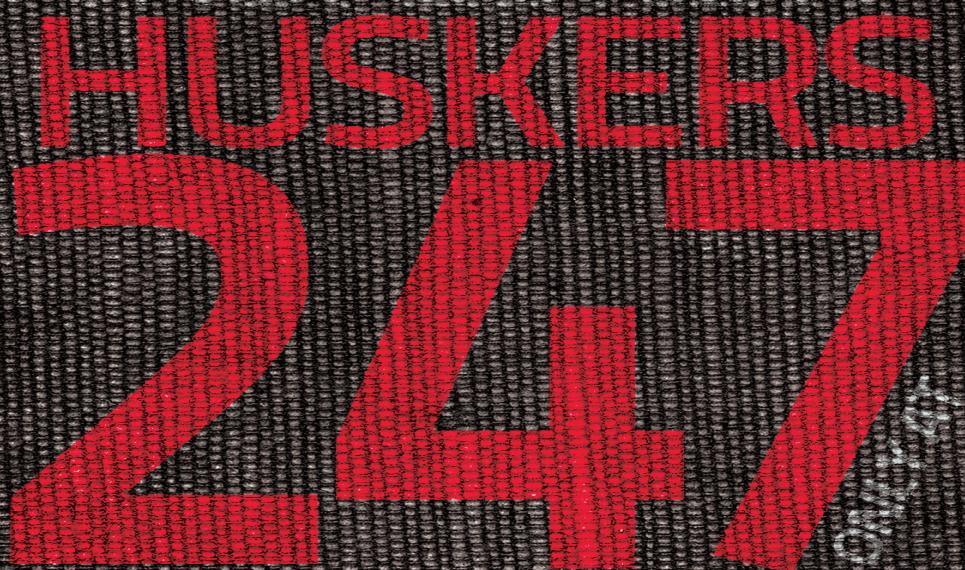
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